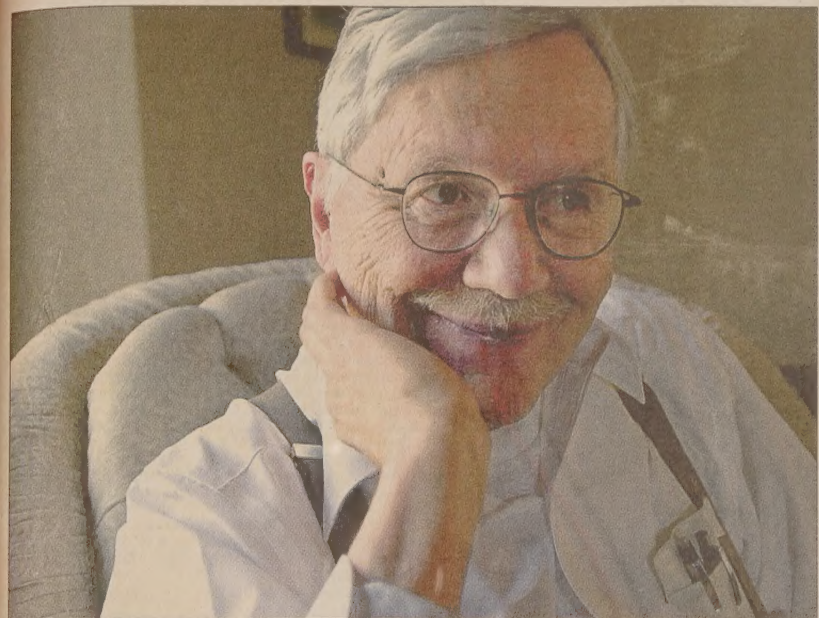


# THE JOURNAL

Friday, December 22, 2000 • 50 cents

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**Inside** Volunteers help resotre field at Mira Vista School to native state [A3]  
**School Watch** Teachers overwhelming approve new contract with WCCUSD [A10]



JOANNA JHANA/STAFF  
ROBERT GOOD, who has stepped down after two terms on the Albany City Council, never shied from dissenting with the council majority.

## Robert Good concludes two outspoken council terms

**Councilman became known for offering alternative views on Albany issues**

By Clare Curley  
STAFF WRITER

ALBANY — City Council members gave a final farewell to former colleague Robert Good, often considered the lone dissenter in the group, at a celebration last week.

The Cal State Hayward physics professor was particularly noted for his consistency, outspokenness and fairness during his tenure, traits that lasted up until his last meeting.

At that meeting the council was asked to consider whether to give a Chinese tutoring center another chance to appeal the city's decision not to give them use of a San Pablo Avenue building.

Good was the first to jump in, saying there was no reason not to include the issue on the upcoming agenda.

"That was his style. That's absolutely Bob," said Councilman Jon Ely. "He was open about everything."

With his blunt style of addressing the public, he was known more for offering the voice of common sense than a willingness to compromise.

Regarding divisive issues like slowing traffic, he has been equally vocal, claim-

ing the only new traffic calming method should be more speeding tickets.

Good said, "I got into this game largely for a concern for parks," but other interests were police and fire protection, the Albany Library and earthquake preparedness.

He began his stint with on the council in 1992.

In his first term, he was the only council member not to make a big issue of whether to support a casino at Golden Gate Fields racetrack, one of the city's most heated debates in recent memory.

In addition, he did not support members when they removed Bill Cain from the Planning and Zoning Commission. The action spawned two competing ballot measures that dealt with the way appointees are elected and dismissed. Good voted in favor of offering greater protection to appointees.

He also cast the lone vote against ballots that would change the offices of police chief, city attorney and treasurer from elected to appointed positions.

His tendency to go against the current must have gained favor with voters as Good was reelected in 1996 and went on to serve as mayor from 1996 to 1997.

"He's been dedicated to listening to the public and has respected all opinions, even when he didn't agree with them," City Clerk Jacqueline Bucholz remarked at the council's Dec. 5 meeting.

Among other things, this meant fighting to purchase new buildings and pre-

serve open space, rather than building on city property. While he was in favor of a teen center and child care facility, he opposed those developments at Memorial Park, one of his many controversial positions over the years.

Still, Ely said, "He always had an eye out for the fiscal implications (of issues), though people don't think of Bob in this light."

Dario Meniketti, perhaps the only other person in Albany to match Good's attendance record at council meetings, saluted the outgoing official with an impromptu speech at his final meeting.

"Robert Good had a mind of his own and rarely wavered," he said.

The image has certainly stuck over the years.

Councilman Allan Maris, who called the council "somewhat predictable," credited Good for keeping other members on their toes.

"I can remember thinking that if you felt pretty strongly about an issue, you'd better be prepared to (defend against) the contrary," said Maris, the only member whose seat was not up for election this year.

Good concedes that he may have made mistakes along the way, but said he never regretted his choices.

For one thing, according to Ely, there were moments in which his persistence didn't win in the end.

See GOOD, Page A14

## Students walk out in support of teachers

**Union campaigns for public support; district says demands would exceed budget**

By Clare Curley  
STAFF WRITER

ALBANY — Much of the Albany High School student body walked out of school yesterday morning to march their support of teachers salary hikes to the administrators building at Cornell Elementary School.

Stan Herd, a Solano Avenue resident, was surprised when he saw teenagers taking to the street en masse accompanied by the sound of megaphones at around 9 a.m.

"You can't help notice — it looks like all the high school students," he said.

Senior Eunji Kin planned the walk-out with other seniors this week.

Kin said, "We do recognize that a lot of teachers in Albany are good teachers, so a lot of us got really upset" when the board recently rescinded an offer that

would give teachers a 10 percent raise.

Honks, picketers and Web sites are all signs that both sides of teacher salary negotiations are shouting their views louder than ever following a school board meeting that turned chaotic last week.

Many Albany Unified School District teachers have resigned from clubs, committees and after-school tutoring efforts in the next step of seeking higher wages.

"We're resigning from volunteer duties," Cornell kindergarten teacher Nancy Bowen said this week. That means working to "rule," to the letter of the contract and no more — what many teachers themselves hoped to avoid.

Still, Kin conceded that working to contract is a mixed bag for students.

"One fellow student said he was confused, asking why make the students suffer," she noted. "But I thought it was showing (the district) what it would be like if the teachers weren't there. That's what it's going to be like if they're not paid as much as they should be paid."

The latest activism resulted from a breakdown between those negotiating a settlement. School board members' decision to continue in private, cutting off public comments over stalled salary talks

See CAMPAIGN, Page A14

## Mainstay market changes hands

By Kate Darby Rauch  
STAFF WRITER

KENSINGTON — A family legacy of nearly 70 years has quietly ended.

But in spite of a change of ownership, Young's Market on Arlington Avenue will continue in the small grocery tradition of Leon Young, who opened the store in the early 1930s, said new owner Khalid Sultan.

Even Gordy Napolitano, Young's butcher of 36 years, will stay, at least for now.

"It will be a neighborhood store, which can offer quite a lot of things," said Sultan, who bought Young's in October from a group of owners that included members of the Young family.

Sultan, a Martinez resident, owns another small grocery on Telegraph Avenue in Berkeley. But Young's is more of a full-service store, which means a learning experience, he said.

"I'm going to bring some new items slowly, once I know what people want."

For many Kensington residents Young's has been a mainstay, the only grocery in the hilly portion of the small unincorporated Contra Costa County community, a convenient place to swing by on the way home.

The store, which eventually passed from Leon Young to his two sons, Ben and Ralph, is also a convenience to Kensington's relatively large elderly population, many of whom don't like to travel far for shopping.

But in recent years, business has slumped at Young's and owners struggled for profitability.

In the late 1970s, 50 percent of the store was sold to Steve Gaustad, a former bagger at the store, and Jeff Hammond. The other half was owned by Ben Young, who retired in 1989. When he died five years later, ownership passed to his children who weren't active in daily store operations.

See MARKET, Page A14

## Crime prevention comes to the elementary classroom

By J.R. Deaton  
STAFF WRITER

EL CERRITO — A pilot program of the city's Crime Prevention Committee is trying to help elementary school children take a bite out of crime.

The program, developed and spearheaded by committee member Peter Mor-

ley, last week brought together Harding Elementary School kindergarten and first-grade students with officers from the El Cerrito Police Department.

The officers talked to the kids about crime prevention, awareness and safety, Morley said in describing the program. "We can talk about 911 and we can talk about how not to talk to strangers and things like this," Morley said. "Traffic safety — looking both ways when you cross the street — those are the major points that we touched upon."

Officer William Savko and Reserve Officer Terri Du Bord spoke to the youngsters about safety issues and crime prevention.

"On the follow-up, when I talked to



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
OFFICER WILLIAM SAVKO talks to kindergartners and first graders on their own level about safety issues and crime prevention.

See CRIME, Page A14

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## WORTH CHECKING OUT

## Christmas Eve worship

Albany United Methodist Church Korean Zion Presbyterian Church present a Christmas Eve family worship with readings, singing and music on Dec. 24 at 5 p.m. at Albany UMC, corner of Marin and Stannage avenues. Details: 582-7346.

## Food bank appeal

Some of the holiday baskets provided by the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano counties may be a little on the light side this year. There aren't enough turkeys, hams and chickens to go around. Last December, the food bank distributed almost 2,000 turkeys to families, but this year, there are only about 1,000 in the warehouse. Turkeys are a mainstay in baskets for families, but single people and the elderly may be better served with a chicken or ham. Donations of poultry or hams must be made at the bank, 4010 Nelson Ave., Concord. Other food items may be dropped in barrels at any Safeway store or Cal Fed Bank, or at participating Mail Boxes Etc. locations. For more information, call the food bank at 800-870-3663.

## Programs for young folks

The El Cerrito Community Center at 7007 Mooser Lane offers special programs for children from 22 months to 5 years of age. These programs are designed to offer parents an opportunity to leave their pre-school children in a safe at-

mosphere under qualified supervision. Teeter Tots is a program for ages 22 months to 3-1/2 years and meets Monday-Thursday from 9 a.m.-noon. The program for ages 3-1/2-kindergarten meets Monday-Friday from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Casa Cerrito Tots is a program for ages 3-1/2 to 5 that provides skill building and kindergarten readiness activities in an exciting age-appropriate setting. Toilet training is preferred. Registration is continuous as long as space is available. For more information please call Judie Bellotti at 510-215-4371.

## King Day parade in EC

El Cerrito's 12th annual Martin Luther King Jr. celebration will be held Jan. 15. This year's theme is "Holding Fast to the Dream." Everyone is welcome to join the march and rally. Assembly for the march begins at 10 a.m. at the El Cerrito Department of Motor Vehicles on Manila. The rally will begin at about 11 a.m. at the Community Center on Mooser. The event is sponsored by the El Cerrito Human Relations Commission, the El Cerrito Branch of the NAACP, and St. Peter CME Church.

## Tax exemption forms

If you will be age 65 before July 1, 2001, you may qualify for an exemption from the Albany Schools 1999 Parcel Tax Measure A. You may obtain an application for exemption at the Albany Unified School District Service Center, 904 Tal-

bot Ave., Albany. An exemption form must be completed and on file for the exemption to be processed. If you wish to receive a form in the mail or if you have questions, call Lydia Assia at 510-558-3755. If you have already received the exemption, you do not need to reapply. The deadline for applications to be returned to the Albany Unified School District Service Center is March 1, 2001.

## Volunteer tax counselors

The AARP Tax Counseling for the Elderly Program is administered by AARP in cooperation with the Internal Revenue Service and the California Franchise Tax Board. Volunteer Counselors prepare tax returns of simple to moderate complexity for low and moderate income individuals, with priority to those age 60 and over. The service is completely free. Counseling sites are located in libraries, senior centers and other buildings in Oakland, Berkeley and Albany, and operated Feb. 1 to April 15. Counselors must work a minimum of four hours per week. No special background is required, but the ability to work with numbers and follow written instructions is needed. Class instruction is provided during two weeks in January. Counselors must pass an open-book written test. Details: Baird Whaley, 510-843-4126 or Richard Poyner, 510-530-2131.

## Christmas lights are up on lower Solano

Once again, thanks to my merry band of volunteers, the Christmas lights light the way up Solano from San Pablo for the holidays.

Special thanks goes to EQP people, Doug Donaldson, John Kartychak, Paula Gray, Christina Van Horn, Dana Milner and the rest of the band: Cathleen Chambers and her daughters, Hannah, Moriose and Coleen Tashjian.

Also many thanks to Swarna Matz, Mike Skinner, Jay Sparks, and Jim Wiley. Without these folks the job couldn't be done. Many thanks, troopers!

## Building, building, building

New construction is going on in Albany. The Martin Group will begin ground breaking in February of

## Albany Chamber

By Roxanne Wiley

2001 for the Albany Bayview Office Park on Eastshore Highway.

This will be 225,000 square feet of office space right off the freeway, bringing in new businesses and personnel to our town. More news about this new venture later.

Another new addition will be the New Albany Condominiums and retail space that will inhabit 32,500 square feet currently used for automobile services and an empty automobile showroom extending from San Pablo to Adams Street to the west.

There will be 21 condominiums

and seven retail spaces.

Both of these endeavors will be a tremendous boon to our city, adding to the coffers as well as bring more folks to our business arena.

## Pool employee of the month

Congratulations to John Tran who has been selected as the number one employee for the month of November. John began working at the Albany pool in January last year as a lifeguard, is now head of lifeguard, and teaches classes to boot. He is a wonderful employee, respected by all Best to you John.

## Holiday wishes

I would like to wish all of you the very best. Enjoy your holidays and best wishes to you in the year 2001.

## Volunteer gives beyond yuletide season

By Cindee de la Vara  
STAFF WRITER

It's easy to understand why the affable and compassionate John Wyatt is a remarkable volunteer in the Bay Area Community Services' Money Management Assistance Program (BACS/MMAP).

Jesting about possible similarities that might exist between himself and the frontiersman of the 1800s, Wyatt declared: "I'm bold and courageous like Wyatt Earp."

With the spirit of a soldier, he doesn't hesitate to face the challenges that come with providing financial supervision to older adults who are unable to manage their own monetary affairs. Wyatt and 69 other BACS volunteers assist seniors who are at risk of losing their independence due to their inability to manage their finances. The volunteers help organize and pay their monthly bills.

"We offer money management assistance to help individuals as independent as possible — out of nursing homes and in the community," said Nadine Barth, director of development at the Oakland-based BACS.

Each volunteer is assigned between one and three low-income elderly individuals who are at risk. After spending five years assisting two clients, Wyatt now manages the government benefits of one elderly man living at home who recently suffered a stroke. "He's a delightful person and says 'yes,' to anything. However, he's incapable of communicating to any great degree," said Wyatt.

Because the senior is not communicative, Wyatt depends on the feedback of the man's wife, whom is elderly herself. "The man's wife, who is not in good physical health, thought it was necessary to put him in a nursing home but believed it

would kill him," noted Wyatt.

"Statistically, it's true," interjected Ish Mendonsa, BACS' director of Affordable Home Care Services and the Money Management Assistance Program. "The change in the physical environment can cause depression and result in the senior giving up," explained Mendonsa.

After organizing the elderly man's bills and analyzing his finances, Wyatt was able to stretch his small monthly income to stay within an itemized spending allotment. "I worked out a budget for the man," said Wyatt, "and budgeted a share-of-cost for him to get in-home care through the county."

The approximate share of in-

See BEYOND, Page A10

## Tired car thief's nap leads to arrest

By K. Osborn  
CORRESPONDENT

ALBANY — On the afternoon of Dec. 11 a business on the 1000 block of Eastshore Highway reported that thieves had broken into a customer's gray '90 Honda Civic by breaking a window. The thieves stole a cassette player and departed unseen.

■ At about 8:30 p.m. on Dec. 11 a resident on the 1000 block of Castro Street reported that thieves had stolen her black '91 Nissan Sentra while it was parked in her driveway. There were no witnesses.

■ At about 9:30 p.m. on Dec. 11 an Oakland man reported that thieves had stolen his burgundy colored '87 Toyota Camry while it was parked in the Albany Cinema parking lot. There were no witnesses.

■ At about 6 a.m. on Dec. 12 Albany officers attempted to stop a red Toyota pickup near Carlson and Central avenues for running a red light. The driver attempted to elude the officers and was chased onto the freeway and off again into a residential area. The driver then abandoned the vehicle and fled on foot into neighboring back yards. El Cerrito police were called in to assist in finding the subject but the search proved unsuccessful. The vehicle was found to have been stolen from Crockett and the license plates were stolen from a vehicle in Colfax. The next morning an El Cerrito resident called police because they found a man sleeping in their back yard. Evidently the 30-year-old Pinole man had fallen asleep while hiding from police. He was arrested and transported to the Marshall's office.

■ On the morning of Dec. 12 a resident on the 700 block of Stannage Avenue reported that during the night thieves entered his black '88 Mercedes and stole items. There were no witnesses.

■ At about 2:30 p.m. on Dec. 12 a resident on the 400 block of Evelyn Avenue reported observing two girls using magic markers to draw graffiti on the rear wall of a build-

## POLICE REPORTS

ing. The girls were last seen walking toward the El Cerrito Plaza BART station. Officers located the girls and arrested them. The 16-year-old Richmond girl was released to her guardian and the 17-year-old Oakland girl was released to her sister.

■ At about 12 p.m. on Dec. 13 Albany officers contacted a man sleeping in the parking lot of the Albany Cinema. The 50-year-old Oakland man was found to be intoxicated and was arrested. He was cited and released with a Notice to Appear.

■ On the evening of Dec. 13 a resident on the 400 block of Evelyn Avenue reported that thieves had broken into his gray Toyota while it was parked in the apartment parking garage. There were no witnesses.

■ At about 10 a.m. on Dec. 14 the manager of a liquor store on the 800 block of San Pablo Avenue reported that thieves had stolen \$100 worth of newspapers from his store. There were no witnesses. At about 5 a.m. on Dec. 18 officers responded to reports of a man walking near San Pablo and Washington Avenues that had been observed taking a large bundle of newspapers from the liquor store. Officers contacted the 44-year-old Richmond man and arrested him.

■ On the afternoon of Dec. 14 Albany officers investigated a blue '87 Nissan Maxima on the 500 block of Pierce Street that had a broken window and appeared to have been vandalized. There were no witnesses and the owner was notified.

■ At about 7 p.m. on Dec. 14 a resident on the 1000 block of Ramona Avenue reported that she had left a package on her porch for UPS to pick up and that her boyfriend had observed someone leaving with the package in a tan colored Toyota. She was able to give officers the license plate number of the vehicle and they are investigating.

■ At about 1:30 a.m. on Dec. 15

Albany officers investigated a blue '81 Ford Mustang on the 1000 block of Kains Avenue for driving without a license. The driver, a 21-year-old Richmond man, was arrested and released with a Notice to Appear.

■ On the morning of Dec. 13 a resident on the 1000 block of Ramona Avenue reported that thieves had broken into a white Volvo station wagon and stole various items.

■ At about 11 p.m. on Dec. 13 a man walking near Carlson and Central avenues reported that thieves had stolen a black '87 Nissan Sentra while it was parked in the Albany Cinema parking lot. There were no witnesses. At about 5 a.m. on Dec. 18 officers responded to reports of a man walking near San Pablo and Washington Avenues that had been observed taking a large bundle of newspapers from the liquor store. Officers contacted the 44-year-old Richmond man and arrested him.

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See ALBANY, Page A1

## Alarm activates scares off intruder

STAFF REPORT

EL CERRITO — Sometime in the past month, a bicycle and tool box containing video games were allegedly stolen from a storage unit on the 6500 block of Mooser Lane. A screwdriver was used to pop the lock on the unit, which was being used by a 31-year-old El Cerrito man. The stolen items were valued at \$2,390.

■ The afternoon of Dec. 13 a purse was taken from the front seat of an Oldsmobile Cutlass after its owner left the car unlocked to enter Jay Vee Liquors, on 10560 San Pablo Ave.

■ The night of Dec. 11 tools and a duffel bag full of clothing, worth close to \$1,000, were allegedly stolen from a Volvo parked on the 9900 block of San Pablo. The driver's door was possibly unlocked with a coat hanger, according to a report.

■ A burglar alarm saved a residence on the 700 block of Ashbury Avenue from possible theft the night of Dec. 11. The resident, a 40-year-old man, told police someone broke in through a sliding glass door. But once the burglar began to walk around, the alarm was triggered, and

the person fled without taking anything.

The cost to repair the door is an estimated \$250.

■ At around 3 p.m. on Dec. 11, two young men allegedly shoplifted \$194 worth of merchandise from Grand Auto on 9989 San Pablo Ave.

■ A 50-year-old Hercules woman reported that her 2001 registration tags were removed from her car on the 10900 block of San Pablo sometime in the last few weeks. The tags cost \$11.

■ A 43-year-old man is suspected of forging checks belonging to a 55-year-old woman to buy items from Staples Store on 11545 San Pablo Ave. The suspect is already on parole for another incident.

■ The night of Nov. 22 \$3,000 worth of property was allegedly stolen from a residence that was ransacked on the 1300 block of Lawrence Street. A neighbor told police she saw a man dressed in black outside the house near the time of the incident. The back window was apparently broken for entry.

■ The night of Dec. 4 a car theft was attempted on the 6500 block of Schmidt Lane, according to a report.

The right front window was shattered and steering column was damaged, resulting in \$1,000 worth of damage.

■ At around 9:30 p.m. on Dec. 11 a teenager with bad teeth distracted a 7-Eleven clerk by asking him names, while another with a green back jacket grabbed a pack of diamonds and fled on motorcycle.

■ The afternoon of Dec. 13 a man walking near Carlson and Central avenues reported that thieves had stolen a black '87 Nissan Sentra while it was parked in the Albany Cinema parking lot. There were no witnesses. At about 5 a.m. on Dec. 18 officers responded to reports of a man walking near San Pablo and Washington Avenues that had been observed taking a large bundle of newspapers from the liquor store. Officers contacted the 44-year-old Richmond man and arrested him.

■ A residence on the 1000 block of Junction Avenue was ransacked after someone entered by open the bedroom window. \$500 worth of property was stolen, according to police.

■ The night of Dec. 11 a man walking near Carlson and Central avenues reported that thieves had stolen a black '87 Nissan Sentra while it was parked in the Albany Cinema parking lot. There were no witnesses. At about 5 a.m. on Dec. 18 officers responded to reports of a man walking near San Pablo and Washington Avenues that had been observed taking a large bundle of newspapers from the liquor store. Officers contacted the 44-year-old Richmond man and arrested him.

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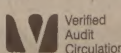
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# Opinion

## STRAIGHT A'S

### Will schools survive next big quake?

**Q:** I am concerned about the safety of some of our West County schools in the event of an earthquake, particularly those very near the fault. How earthquake-safe are the schools in our region? I know some districts are replacing old buildings with newer buildings built to current earthquake safety standards. Are other school districts making buildings earthquake-safe? Does state law require that school buildings be earthquake-safe?

— Sheila Tabet, parent, El Cerrito

**A:** The menacing Hayward fault runs beneath Bernhard Avenue in the Richmond hills, about a quarter-mile from Adams Middle School. El Cerrito High, Portola Middle School and several elementary schools are within a mile of the fault line.

Those schools were built between 1938 and 1957, well before modern seismic building standards. So I can see why you're concerned.

But Fred Turner, structural engineer for the state's Seismic Safety Commission, says you should be more concerned about the bookcases, light fixtures and ceiling-mounted TV consoles that could fall in classrooms than the stability of the school building itself.

Since 1933, California public schools have been held to tougher seismic safety standards than other buildings, and most schools have performed better in earthquakes than buildings that were not so tightly regulated.

The state started scrutinizing school buildings for earthquake safety after the 1933 Long Beach earthquake killed five students, destroyed 70 schools and damaged 420 more. The quake hit shortly before 6 p.m., when few students were on campus. If it had occurred during school hours, it would have killed many more, Turner said.

The resulting legislation, the Field Act, requires schools to be built to the latest seismic building standards. Those regulations are constantly revised as engineers learn from structural damage inflicted by large earthquakes. The most substantial revision came in 1976, from lessons learned in the 1971 Sylmar quake.

"We're dealing with a moving target for what we consider to be acceptable construction," Turner said.

But the state does not require school districts to bring existing schools up to the latest standards.

Thus, Turner said, "there is a relatively small but significant number of school buildings that do pose a risk to life during a substantial earthquake."

Those buildings make up 1 percent to 5 percent of the state's 8,300 schools, Turner said. Concrete frame and masonry buildings are considered the most suspect. Despite being built before modern standards, the majority of California public schools are single-story, wood-frame construction, which tends to perform well in earthquakes, he said.

The state has launched an inventory of the most vulnerable school sites, expected to be completed by this time next year. After the state knows how extensive the problem is, officials plan to help districts retrofit or replace schools gradually, a process that could take decades, Turner said.

As you point out, some districts with aging schools aren't waiting around for state help. The Berkeley Unified School District studied the seismic safety of all its buildings in 1991 and has replaced three schools, including Craigmont Elementary, which was rebuilt a couple of hundred feet away from the fault line that used to run directly under it.

"Most of the major problems have been taken care of," said Bob Rudometkin, senior construction coordinator for Berkeley schools. "We're in good shape at this point."

Albany High is still holding classes in portable buildings as its earthquake-vulnerable building is rebuilt.

Districts are required to update buildings to the latest seismic standards when they substantially repair or add on to existing buildings. The rule is triggered when the cost of the construction project exceeds \$20,000 or 50 percent of the cost of the building, said Louis Nastro, spokesman for the Division of the State Architect.

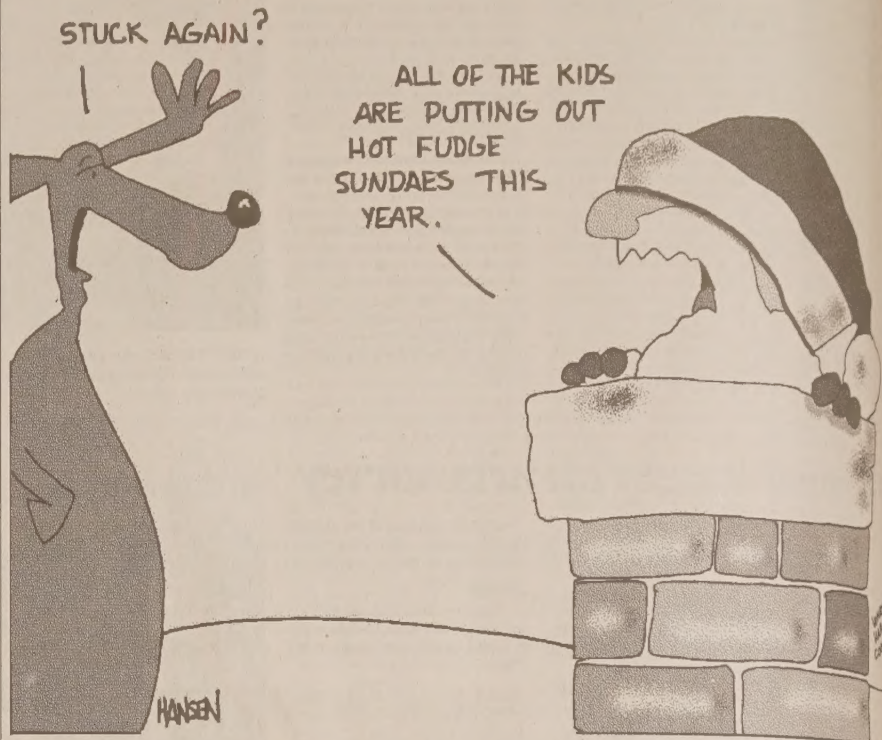
The West Contra Costa Unified School District did not include a seismic safety study in its new facilities plan. At \$25,000 per school, the studies were too expensive, said Vince Kilmarin, assistant superintendent.

But Measure M, the \$150 million in construction funding the voters approved last month, may help the district update all its buildings to the latest earthquake safety standards. District officials hope to leverage the bond money for an additional \$50 million to \$60 million in state construction funds — enough to repair and rebuild all the elementary schools in the district.

The bond money also will free \$2 million in deferred maintenance funds Kilmarin hopes will count as a contribution to win additional state funds to repair the district's secondary schools at a rate of two per year.

"We're continuing to ensure we upgrade the standards as quickly as possible. At this point that's all we can do," he said.

## HAVE A HAPPY HOLIDAY



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Good teachers equal good schools

As a parent with a child in the Albany school district I am very dismayed by the current turn of events regarding teacher salary increases.

When my husband and I decided to purchase our first home four years ago we specifically chose Albany over other neighboring communities because of the public schools here.

We had heard of Albany's reputation as having an excellent public school system.

We did not move to Albany because we relished the idea of living in a tiny two-bedroom one-bathroom home, the foggy summers and the terrible traffic snarls on Interstate 80.

No, we settled in Albany first and foremost because of the opportunity of sending our daughter to a good local public school.

We have witnessed five other families with school age children move on our block since then.

I think they would all agree the chance to send their children to an above average schools was a large part of their decision to settle in Albany.

It was a shock then to discover after settling in this community that teachers' salaries here are among the lowest in the Bay Area.

There may have been an excuse for this over four years ago when the California economy was still in a recovery mode, but what is the excuse now?

The state of California is flush with funds, property taxes are rising and so does the cost of living for our teachers.

I am worried that our best teachers will leave Albany to go to neighboring school districts such as Berkeley or Oakland where they can make a better living. And who could blame them?

I suspect the Albany school district has the funds.

It is just a matter of the Albany School Board getting its priorities straight.

The math is simple: good teachers equal good schools — not the other way around.

Everyone in the community should be concerned about this issue.

If Albany schools loose their stellar reputation because of teacher attrition - it will make Albany a poorer place indeed.

Michelle Howard  
Albany

### R-E-S-P-E-C-T

Please add our voices to the chorus of parents who attended last Tuesday's school board meeting to praise the invaluable efforts of our teachers and to support their plea for salary increases.

We agreed with the glowing accounts from many parents expressing immeasurable ap-

preciation for the gifts our teachers have bestowed upon our children and community, delivered predominantly in a respectful, kind and, sometimes even humorous tone.

Sadly we also were witness to the venting of angry taunts, jeers and threats of recall directed toward the members of the School Board.

We know the members of the Board to be reasonable and hard-working people who have volunteered endless, unpaid hours to our schools and community.

They have worked in the schools and at school-related community events for many years, they have helped develop the schools' resources and libraries, and have played integral roles in fundraising for our schools.

We believe that even in disagreement, they deserve RESPECT.

Piera Cirillo and  
Dolores Dalton  
Albany parents

### Thanks, Sundar Shadi

Sadly, we won't be seeing the beautiful and exciting Christmas display on Arlington Boulevard in El Cerrito this year.

The magnificent display Sundar Shadi erected year after year on his property gave hundreds of people who drove by much joy.

It is time for us to thank Mr. Shadi for his hard work. It is time for us to wish him good health and to let him know we haven't forgotten him.

Eula Mae Fisher  
Richmond

### Cast a big shadow and help brighten a student's future

This February the West Contra Costa Unified School District will be celebrating National Groundhog Job Shadow Day/Month (GJSD), dedicated to giving young people across America job shadowing experiences.

Here's your chance to make a difference in the work force of the future in just a few short hours. How? Just participate in GJSD.

What is job shadowing? As you already know, the best way to learn is by doing.

Job shadowing gives young people, living in the West Contra Costa County, the chance to learn about the world of work by spending part of a day in the workplace.

They get a first-hand look at what a "real job" is like. But more importantly, job shadowing shows students how the skills they learn in school will be put into action in the workplace.

What happens on Groundhog Day? You'll be matched with students from the West Contra Costa Unified School District who will spend time with you as you do your job.

How long is up to you, but we recommend

at least two to four hours. You get the opportunity to help students make the link between learning and earning. Just a few short hours are all it may take to open the window into a world of work for our young people.

How can you sign up? Just send me an email regarding your interest at [transitions@wcusd.k12.ca.us](mailto:transitions@wcusd.k12.ca.us) or call me at 510-907-5300. I am willing to make all the necessary arrangements to make it an enjoyable experience for all employees who would like to participate.

I welcome the opportunity to meet with your departments to discuss GJSD in more detail. If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to call or e-mail me.

Teresa Martin  
Employment / Transition Specialist  
WCUSD  
School-to-Career Department

### State of emergency for state trees

California has a tree "emergency." Our trees have problems with old age, disease, and heavy rains and/or high winds.

Much of this area was just grassland with scrub brush, and trees in gullies.

Many of our trees were introduced and are nearing old age. In urban areas tall trees are a major hazard to homes, pedestrians, parked cars and park users.

Those tall trees in urban areas should be inspected yearly by qualified arborists. We need a statewide policy on removal of dangerous trees.

Homeowners who need arborists should check the Yellow Section and the Bay Area Checkbook magazine with ratings of arborists by their readers and of Consumer Reports.

The University of California Cooperative Extension has a Tree Failure Reporting System and holds annual conferences on Tree Failure for Arborists.

The 12th conference is in January at Pk. Arborists should contact UC Ext. 625 Montes St., 200, Half Moon Bay, CA 94040, phone 650-726-9059.

A booklet "Recognizing Tree Hazards" \$5.41 pps., UC Ext. 510-643-3431, has a 6701 San Pablo Ave., 2nd floor (just south of Ashby).

Each county has a Cooperative Extension. In Alameda County: 510-567-6812 for general information.

On Tuesday and Thursday, 11 a.m.-4 p.m., a Master Gardener and long-time volunteer promptly returns calls: 510-638-4371. For other areas see the county government sections of phone books.

Charles L. Sall  
Berkeley

## AROUND TOWN

### Worth noting

By Chris Treadway  
JOURNAL EDITOR

It's been awhile since we've checked in and the list of things that are column-worthy is getting pretty long — some there so long that they've expired on the shelf (news items are like bread or milk — they get moldy after a time).

But there's still plenty of nourishing stuff in the aisles. If you want to feed your feel-good side, you can drop a card in the mail to Sundar Shadi (944 Arlington Ave., El Cerrito CA 94530), a holiday tradition suggested by Mr. Shadi's daughter Vera and carried out by columnist Martin Snapp for the past three years as a way to say thanks to the man who brought joy to so many for some 40 years of Christmas nativity scene displays on a "vacant" lot he has maintained on Arlington Avenue. We put vacant in quotes because it fits the definition as lot that hasn't been developed. But for decades Mr. Shadi meticulously planted his "Persian carpet of flowers" for different events during the seasons, growing colorful displays depicting the Lions Club logo, honoring the U.N. and much more.

If you want to see a holiday display that is inspired, whether or not by Mr. Shadi, we suggest you cruise slowly in the 700 block of Sea View

Drive in El Cerrito to see a Christmas display that encompasses a nativity scene plus a nod to Santa Claus. It isn't on the same scale as Mr. Shadi's work, but it packs a lot into a limited area and we thank a caller to the paper last week kind enough to call it to our attention.

Meanwhile, we have the opportunity to turn lemons into lemonade. Last week's story about the El Cerrito Plaza Mural Project mistakenly listed the Read Aloud Volunteer Program as being in Kensington. The program, whose participants read to students in inner city schools in Richmond, is based in El Cerrito. Anyone looking for a chance to volunteer (we get calls from people at this time of year looking for such opportunities) can contact the Read Aloud program. Just call 510-326-8284 or 510-237-0735. You may be the person who makes a major difference in a young person's life.

And finally, it's time to say thanks to several truckloads of people who make this paper necessary — uh, possible. Let's start with the dedicated PTA people who work tirelessly to keep their respective school communities informed. That would mean Kay Weinstein in Albany (she succeeded Belinda Lum in this role) and Linda Takimoto in El Cerrito. We should also mention Joann Steck-Bayat, who oversees the El Cerrito High and Portola Middle School e-mail trees.

See TOWN, Page A5

GENERAL MANAGER • RUTH MARICICH  
EDITOR • CHRIS TREADWAY

ALBANY • EL CERRITO • KENSINGTON

# THE JOURNAL

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"... were it left to me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers, or newspapers without a government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter."

— Thomas Jefferson, 1789



## Remembering 'Papa John,' a remarkable man of God

With tonight being the first night of Chanukah, and Christmas coming up on Monday, I can't think of a better occasion to celebrate a true man of God. His name was Angelo Roncalli. But the world knew (and loved) him by another name: Pope John XXIII.

Pope John was beatified by the Vatican this fall, which is just one step away from sainthood. But those of us who revere his memory don't need any commission to tell us what we already know: If ever a saint walked this earth, Angelo Roncalli was it.

I remember the day he died: An announcer came on the radio and said, "Ladies and gentlemen, I have terrible news. Our beloved Pope John is dead." (And the announcer wasn't even Catholic!)

When I got home, my parents were in tears. So was everyone else on the block. Because, you see, Papa John wasn't just the pope of the Catholics; he was everyone's. He was loved by Catholics, Protestants, Orthodox, Jews, Muslims, Buddhists, people of all religions and people of none.

He didn't look very impressive: He was basically a fat, dumpy little man with a face like a kindly old Italian grandmother.

"His face was like a jigsaw puzzle of borrowed pieces," writes religious scholar Peter de Rosa. "But his heart was one of God's masterpieces."

And this is a critic of the Church talking! Papa John had that effect on people.

Unlike his predecessor, whose alleged silence during the Holocaust continues to be the subject of controversy, there's no need to guess what Roncalli was doing during World War II: He was smug-



MARTIN SNAPP

Snapp Shots

gling Jews to safety by the thousands, in his capacity as Papal Nuncio to Turkey. That's why he's known in Israel as a "Righteous Gentile," the highest honor a Jew can pay to a non-Jew.

After the war, the Vatican sent him to France on a delicate diplomatic mission: to save the Church from the vengeance of Charles De Gaulle, who wanted to put three French cardinals and 20 bishops on trial for treason because of their wartime collaboration with the Vichy regime.

He not only dissuaded De Gaulle, he did it with such tact that even his opponents refused to call him an "enemy." Edouard Herriot, leader of the rabidly anti-clerical Radical party, said, "If all priests were like Nuncio Roncalli, there would be no anti-clericals left!" And after Papa John's death, De Gaulle himself filed a letter with the Vatican attesting to his sainthood.

Every pope since Papa John has labored in his shadow — even the remarkable man who currently occupies the Throne of Peter.

It would take a blind man not to see how much respect and adoration John Paul II receives wherever he goes. But the unhappy fact remains that although he is feted and cheered, all too often he isn't listened to. He sometimes seems like a lonely prophet in the wilderness, inveighing unheard against the materialism of our secular world.

Not so with Papa John. Everyone

listened to him, for the simple reason that he listened to everyone.

He didn't think it was his job to lecture people, or root out heresy, or issue dire warnings about the future. He thought his job was to be a good Christian. And that meant carrying out the injunction of the Gospels: to love everyone.

Including the prisoners in Rome's infamous Regina Coeli prison, whom he visited shortly after his election, saying, "You cannot come to see me, so I have come to see you."

And the little boy who wrote to him, saying he couldn't make up his mind whether to be a pope or a policeman. Papa John wrote back, "It would be safer for you to train for the police. Anyone can be pope — as you can see, since I became one."

And especially, it included those who disagreed with him: communists, capitalists and church conservatives alike. To all of them, he was simply The Good Shepherd.

But he was no simpleton. He was fluent in five languages — Latin, Greek, French, Italian and Bulgarian — and could read in English, German and Russian. His brilliant encyclicals, "Mater Et Magistra" and "Pacem In Teris," brought a new humanity to Church doctrine.

He was the pope who took the anti-Semitic language out of the liturgy, and the first to reach out to the Jewish community. Many Jews fondly remember the words from the Bible he used to greet a delegation of rabbis: "I am Joseph, your brother."

And, of course, he was the genius who dreamed up the Ecumenical Council, which was only one of the most revolutionary events in

Church history. When he was elected in 1958 at the age of 77, everyone assumed he would be just a caretaker. But when he died five years later, the Church — and the world — were totally changed.

He inherited a Church that was mired in arcane scholastic disputes ("If a man in a state of mortal sin is killed on the way to confession, is he still saved?") and obsessed with the torments of Hell.

He left it suffused with love, charity and service to others, and with its eye turned firmly toward Heaven.

He may not have been a caretaker, but he took awfully good care of his Church. He was truly Christ's vicar on Earth.

A personal note: As you probably know, I'm not Catholic. But I did get a chance to meet this great man before he died.

To tell the truth, I didn't actually meet him. But I was in the same room with him, at a Papal audience at Castel Gandolfo outside Rome in 1982.

And I know you're not going to believe this, but I swear to God (literally): There was a real golden halo emanating from him. And when he smiled at me, I felt as if I was being swaddled in infinite love.

It was a smile he turned toward the whole world. And the afterglow still remains, even almost 40 years after his death.

Merry Christmas. And I'm sure Papa John would be the first to add: Happy Chanukah, Kwanzaa, Ramadan and Winter Solstice, too.

Phone Martin Snapp at 510-273-9039, write him c/o Hills Newspapers, 1969 Mountain Blvd., Oakland CA 94611, or e-mail him at catman@california.com.

## Study: Regional parks add to area's economic vitality

BAY CITY NEWS SERVICE

East Bay Regional Parks land not only benefits Bay Area residents through recreational opportunities but makes a meaningful contribution to the region's economy, according to a study just released.

The East Bay Regional Park District commissioned Economic & Planning Systems of Berkeley to conduct the study, which was published earlier this month, to evaluate the impact that the public land management agency makes on the greater Bay Area.

The study adheres to the notion that the economy in a region is directly linked to its quality of life and the quality of life in an area is greatly enhanced by the availability of recreational facilities.

The park district owns, manages and operates more than 91,000 acres of open space, parks, trails that provide a broad range of recreational opportunities and conserve a number of significant ecosystems in Alameda and Contra Costa counties. The agency says that in 1999, at least 2.8 million people made a total of more than 14 million visits to these facilities.

Benefits of district land include enhanced health for visitors through exercise, educational effects of the environmental interpretive programs, public safety benefits through wildland management services, and transportation provided by regional trails that connect to parks, homes and businesses, the study says. Less obvious is the effect recreational land has on the economy, property values and endanger species.

The study notes that the San Francisco Bay Area consistently ranks on the top of national and international "Best Places to Live" and "Best Places

to Do Business" lists.

"The provision by the district of parks, open space, and trails, and associated recreational and educational opportunities, environmental and cultural preservation, alternative transit modes, and sprawl-limiting characteristics all form part of the strong quality of life in the East Bay," the study says. "As a result, the attraction and retention of businesses and skilled workers in the East Bay is strong, bolstering the economy and providing broad economic benefits for all residents." The study says district parks, trails and open space also affect the area economy by enhancing property values throughout the district, particularly for homes adjacent to park lands whose property values are increased due to views and immediate access.

Park lands are also important from an environmental standpoint. The study says the district's preservation of natural resources provides vital ecosystem services relating to climate regulation, air quality, water supply, erosion control, nutrient recycling and waste treatment. More than 500 sites on 76,550 acres of district land, about 80 percent of its total, contain distinctive or irreplaceable resources that require conservation or special management. This includes areas that are home to native species of plants and animals listed as rare, threatened or endangered by state and federal governments.

By 2020, the population in Alameda and Contra Costa counties is predicted to grow 18 percent, placing an additional 436,000 new residents and 360,000 jobs in the East Bay. The district says that if it wishes to maintain its current level of service by 2020 it will have to acquire an additional 16,750 acres of new parkland.



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## Healthy eating tips while on vacation

You can take it with you. A healthy diet that is. Here are some healthy eating tips from the National Nutritional Foods Association.

Before you start your trip, think ahead:

- Are you flying? Most airlines offer a variety of vegetarian meals, which are typically lower in calories and fat content. Ask for your meal when you book your ticket and confirm your request both one week and 24 hours prior to departure.
- Request a hotel room with a mini refrigerator to store things, like nonfat yogurt, fresh fruits and raw vegetables for snacking.
- Nuts, pretzels, rice cakes, plain popcorn or dried fruit, such as apricots and apples, are low-fat, non-perishable snacks for a car trip or an afternoon away from home. Watch out for dried banana chips, as the calories and fat content resemble potato chips.
- Prepare different vegetables to snack on: cucumbers, jicama and broccoli have great flavor. Try dipping veggies in nonfat dressing for added flavor.
- Applesauce, raisins and fruit cups are available in pre-packaged, individual servings handy to munch on while sightseeing.
- High-fiber crackers that are low in fat are a good choice—whole grain or whole rye. For the youngsters, bring along graham crackers or animal crackers.
- Instead of mayonnaise, which

is high in fat, try low-fat spreads, such as jam or jelly, mustard or nonfat margarine.

• Select a restaurant that offers a children's menu. A hamburger or a hot dog is okay occasionally, but encourage your child to try

grilled chicken or fresh fish. Don't forget the vegetables.

• Choose your main course wisely when dining out. Select entrées that are broiled, grilled, steamed or baked.

• Many restaurants indicate

healthier menu choices with special symbols. Look for them.

• Request that all your vegetables be grilled in lemon juice rather than broiled or fried in oil.

• Instead of butter and sour cream on your baked potato, try nonfat yogurt, cottage cheese, salsa or steamed vegetables.

• Hold the cream sauce or gravy. Ask for a tomato-based sauce, which is much lower in calories and fat.

• If you choose a fast-food restaurant, select a grilled chicken sandwich instead of a hamburger, which is higher in fat. Instead of french fries, order a small salad with low-fat salad dressing on the side.

• Watch out for extra-large portions at restaurants—you can't take leftovers home with you when traveling. Don't hesitate to split an entrée; you'll save extra calories and money.

For more information about nutrition, go to [www.nffa.org](http://www.nffa.org).

It's easy to gain weight on a vacation and harder to take the weight off, so it's best to start off eating healthy.

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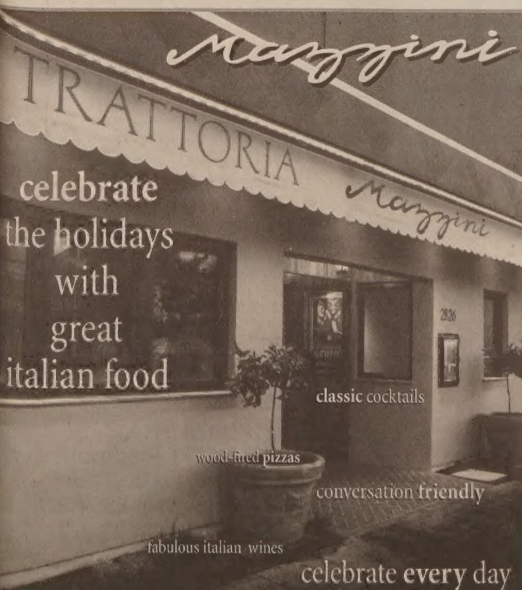
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# Solano Stroll originator pens memoirs of an interesting life

In her book "Portraits & Miracles", Lisa Burnham, born Lisa Hirsch, dwells lovingly on her life in Vienna. A rather privileged life, in a lovely city, her memories are very clear and complete. As we talk she looks around the charming living room of her home in the Kensington hills, and remembers, "Our living room in Vienna was at least three times as large as this room." And her voice has the wistful tone that I soon learn to recognize as she speaks more and more of her memories of those pre-World War II, pre-Hitler days.

Lisa Burnham has been and is a vital member of our community. It is she who first thought of the Solano Stroll, the not-to-miss annual Berkeley/Albany event. She opened a home decorating shop on Solano, and found the people around her friendly and artistic. She worked as a decorator for 20 years. The idea of the Solano Stroll came to her then. It was started with a \$10 investment from all of the people who had shops in the area. Of course, it has grown enormously, and was soon out of her hands.

It was in her retirement that the idea of a book came to her. Daughter Dale told me her mother wrote

## Community Folk

By Clara-Rae Genser

the book in "bits and pieces" over a five-year period, working with a writing coach. It is obvious from both Dale and Lisa that this was a work of love.

So we return to Lisa, the book and her memories. She begins the book with the story of a painting. It is a portrait of her mother and the children. Lisa, about 3, is leaning against her mother, holding her favorite doll. Erwin, her brother, who is 13 months older than she, is sitting, leaning on his mother's lap. Her memory is of the difficulty of standing still while the artist painted it. The doll was a concession to keep her still. The portrait has an interesting history, and now hangs in an exhibition of well known Austrian artists, on the fifth floor of the famous Schloss Belvedere Museum in Vienna.

She speaks of the people who "took care" of the family, most of whom became part of the family. The chauffeur-gardener and his wife who also worked for them were very much a part of the family until, with the coming of Hitler

and his SS he offered to testify against them. Because the other servants very courageously testified for them, they escaped the camps. But it was a very frightening time.

She speaks fondly of the many people who used to come to their home, or whom they met during vacations and trips. Her father was a well known and respected doctor, and her mother, who was born in Germany, a lovely hostess. Guests often were writers, artists, Austrian royalty, and others. Lisa speaks of the difficulty of living with a very domineering father, who ruled wife and children with an iron hand, but it was obvious from the stories she tells that she was dearly loved.

She tells of the large apartment they lived in, that was also her father's office. She and brother Erwin shared a room. Their move to a larger home, where she had her own room, was a very special event in her life.

It was during her 17th birthday party-obviously a gala affair with young people enjoying the flirting and dancing that was part of such parties-that the radio suddenly stopped, then came the voice of Chancellor Schuschnigg, saying, "Fellow Austrians, I have been

forced to abdicate. Hitler and his troops are standing at the door of our beloved country. No blood will be shed as long as there is no resistance. But there will be no more Austria. Try to stay calm. God bless us all."

Things moved swiftly after that. Since Jews were no longer allowed to go to school, she took private classes that would help prepare her for an uncertain future. Because each member of the family was born in a different place, getting passports and visas was very difficult. Erwin was already in England. Lisa had to go to Italy—a very frightening journey with no way to know whether she would make it. She stayed a while with her aunt and uncle there, until Mussolini tied up with Hitler. Then another scary journey to England. And finally, after three uncertain months, word from her parents, meeting with them on the ship and going to the U.S.

Her father had offers from Beth Israel Hospital in Boston, from Beirut and from England. He chose Boston, and that is where they went.

She speaks of her beloved grandparents who took refuge in Norway where their daughter was already living. All of them, the grandpar-

ents, cousins and friends were killed in the Holocaust. She tells us she has told her story to the Holocaust Museum, where such stories are collected.

She studied at Boston University, then at Radcliffe where she graduated cum laude in 1943 with a degree in fine arts. She married her first husband, Jack Burnham, a student at Harvard, and, after his graduation, moved with him to Berkeley. Here they brought up their three children and built the house she continues to live in today. She sadens when she speaks of her son, "My eldest child and best friend" Dwight, who died of melanoma. Her daughters are Dale and Wendy, and she has two grandchildren. In an aside she says "My middle child was born on the railroad tracks." Laughingly she reports the chaos in her home when she felt labor coming, the question of who was to take her to the hospital, etc. Finally on their way, the baby didn't wait, and they had to stop, yes, just past the railroad tracks. Fortunately there was a policeman just behind them, who helped with the birth.

Several years after Jack's death Lisa met again the man who had been her writing teacher at the first school she had attended in the U.S.,

Marot Junior College in California. It was a real love story. They had both been married and had their spouses. She learned that he had loved her since they were both her teacher. So when she became her writing teacher, she recognized and popularized it.

Always an avid writer, Lisa was encouraged by both her writing teachers to write memoirs and to write about her almost forgotten years of her life before Hitler. After she had completed it, it is dedicated to her memory.

Lisa longs to take her grandchildren to Vienna and let them see the city she still loves to read about in another dream. She wants to write another book about the years she has known, about the people she has met, most people are, and how they each other.

Thank you, Martha Hirsch, for suggesting Lisa Burnham to me. I enjoyed meeting her and reading her book. And I invite all of you to give me your interesting stories. Please write a note to me at 555 E. 44th, Albany, CA 94706 or call 4585. My email is crgenser@aol.com.

# Lawrence Hall has lineup of family holiday entertainment

The Lawrence Hall of Science offers an entire week of song, music, dance, and fun family entertainment during Winter Holiday Family Celebration Week. Each event is a guaranteed child-pleaser and is included with admission to the museum. The scheduled entertainment:

- A Spirited Celebration of Kwanzaa with Awele Makeba Tuesday, Dec. 26 at 1 p.m.
- Celebrate the first day of Kwanzaa with storyteller Awele Makeba. She'll share a harvest of tales and a capella songs from African and African-American history, culture, and folklore celebrating the seven principles of Kwanzaa.
- Magic Mike Wednesday, Dec. 27 at noon and 1:30 p.m.
- Dazzling special effects, magic, juggling, ventriloquism, and outra-

geous comedy is what Parent's Choice Award winner Magic Mike is all about. He's so popular we've added an extra show this year!

- Season of Lights — The Imagination Company Thursday, Dec. 28 at 1 p.m.
- The Imagination Company is a popular children's theater group. Their performance of Season of Lights brings world winter celebrations to life and highlights the significance of light to several cultures.
- Earthcapades Friday, Dec. 29 at 1 p.m.
- Join the spunky team of Hearty and Lissin, as they blend storytelling, juggling, acrobatics, and more, to entertain and teach about saving the environment. Skits include "Aqua Woman," "Surfer Dude," and "Recycle That Stuff!"
- Bats of the World, Saturday,

Dec. 30 at 1 p.m. and 2:30 p.m.

Maggie Hooper, an educator with the California Bat Conservation Fund, will show slides, introduce three live, tame, and indigenous bats, and answer your questions about these fascinating creatures.

- Gary Lapow's "Light Up the Lights!" on Sunday, Dec. 31 at 1 p.m.
- It's time to sing along with popular songmeister Gary Lapow, as he performs traditional holiday songs from around the world celebrating Las Posadas, Kwanzaa, Chanukah, and Christmas. He'll even include a few of his own original tunes.

The hall is at 1 Centennial Drive, above the UC Berkeley campus. Group discounts are available by calling 510-642-5134. The Lawrence Hall of Science is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. For details call 510-642-5132.

# Holiday street performers coming to Solano Ave. this weekend

The Solano Avenue Association is hiring street entertainers for Saturdays and Sundays to liven up the street during shopping season on the Avenue. Here is the schedule of performers for this weekend:

**Saturday, Dec. 23**

- 12-2 p.m., 1561 Solano Ave., Royal Hawaiian Ukulele Band
- 12-4 p.m., 1770 Solano Ave., Ancient Winds

**Sunday, Dec. 24**

- 12-4 p.m., 1585 Solano Ave., Hot Popcorn
- 2-4 p.m., Strolling Holiday Stiltwalkers
- 4-6 p.m., 1745 Solano Ave., Dan Lange - Guitarist

**Sunday, Dec. 24**

- 12-4 p.m., 1573 Solano Ave., Ancient Winds
- 12-2 p.m., 1741 Solano Ave., Trish NiGabhain - Irish Harp and Guitar
- 2-4 p.m., 1850 Solano Ave., Bay Area Steppers Drill Team
- 2-4 p.m., Strolling Toy Soldier

E-mail us at [journal@cctimes.com](mailto:journal@cctimes.com)

**OBITUARY**

**Fannie Louise Wray, longtime Albany resident dies at 102**

Fannie Louise Wray, a resident of Albany for 68 years, died Dec. 21 at age 102 in Stockton, Calif.

The native of Lake County, Cal., was born Sept. 14, 1898.

She was a 1921 graduate of Stanford University and a member of the 36 years. She was a member of Epworth Church in Albany.

She is survived by her daughter Fern Jones of Stockton and her son Victor Wray of Nevada City, Calif.

Seven grand children and 10 great grand children.

Graveside services were held at 10 a.m. on Monday, Dec. 22, at 19 at Upper Lake Cemetery.

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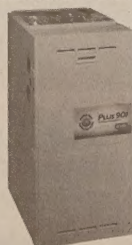
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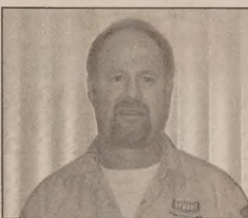
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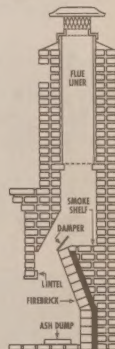
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by Don Marshall of Harry Clark Plumbing

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blower or furnace filter. Ducts  
are often large in size and dust  
may accumulate in the return  
and supply grills or registers. It  
has been common practice to  
clean and vacuum this type of  
heating system. The amount of  
dust and particulate removed  
by vacuum is however relatively  
small by weight. Care  
must be taken not to damage  
asbestos which is common in  
the registers, grilles and on the  
ducts of these systems. Brush  
type vacuums should not be  
used.Newer forced air furnaces  
have blowers and filters. Since  
furnaces have blowers  
designed for air circulation,  
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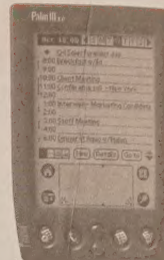


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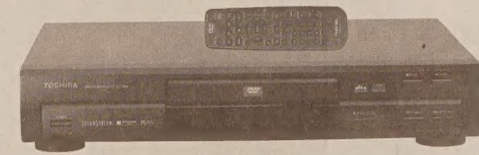
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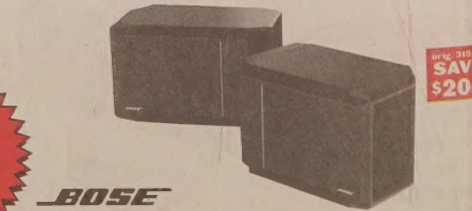
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## WEST COUNTY SCHOOL WATCH

# School district, employee unions approve landmark contracts

As a welcome outcome to months of bargaining, the WCCUSD and its four employee unions have approved new agreements. The first three agreements were approved at the Dec. 13 meeting of the school board following ratification by Public Employees Union Local 1, the West Contra Costa Administrators Association, and the School Supervisors Association. The United Teachers of Richmond, representing district teachers, concluded its member election on Dec. 20 and the agreement was subsequently approved by the school board at a special meeting yesterday.

The basic framework for the agreement, common to all employee groups, is a 10 percent salary increase retroactive to July 1 of this school year.

Kathy Rollins of Public Employees Union Local 1 said, "I think in general our people are happy and feel that the board has worked with them and they appreciate it. We felt better about negotiations this year than in years past. Of course, we are

anxious to make even more progress."

Commenting on the agreement, UTR President Terri Jackson noted, "I think that the increase will be a good thing for our teachers. I am glad that we were able to reach double digits and I hope that this is the beginning of trying to make our salaries more competitive with other districts."

Speaking as one board member, I want to offer my congratulations to all parties involved in these negotiations. This salary increase is probably the highest ever provided our employees and it came following a lot of hard work by all parties.

## District studies consolidation of school board elections

For some time, WCCUSD school board elections have been held during odd years. Historically, other local entities, particularly city councils, have also held their elections at this time. However, in recent times, the number of cities holding elec-

tions in odd or "off" years has declined dramatically. In West County, currently only the school district and the cities of Richmond and El Cerrito are holding off year elections and El Cerrito is in the process of moving toward an even year or general election cycle by 2004.

The impact of the declining number of entities holding "off" year elections has been two-fold. First, the cost to the school district of holding elections has radically escalated. The cost increase for the WCCUSD between the November 1997 and the November 1999 school board election was over \$51,000. (The costs of holding an election are split between the entities having it—the fewer the entities, the higher the costs for those involved.)

The other major result of fewer groups holding elections has been declining voter participation in school board selection. Because in many jurisdictions the school board

See WATCH, Page A14

## Beyond

FROM PAGE A1

home care for this particular client is \$380 per month, based on criteria that Wyatt used for researching and figuring a share of cost.

Wyatt slated the man's monthly payments as \$180 for rent, \$200 for food and \$125 for insurance premiums. "I develop a hard and fast budget," he said.

Researching ways to prolong the elderly man's independent living, Wyatt said thoughtfully: "I'm thinking that the premium for Medigap, which is \$100 per month, should be discontinued."

Being a volunteer for the Money Management Program involves more than paying bills and balancing a checkbook. "It's more like life management than just paying bills," Barth said.

"The most difficult situation is spending their money for their benefit," said Wyatt. For example, "trying to buy them something that they would want and above all, keep ... such as finding them a good chair can be difficult, sometimes, due to incontinence."

Mendonsa noted: "They are not obligated to go shopping for the senior, but it helps them."

Though Wyatt tries not to get too personally involved with a client, he remembers the connection he made with one of his former seniors. The woman was eventually moved to a nursing home because of her immobility and dementia.

"My wife had made the client a birthday card on the computer and although the woman couldn't express herself, she kept that card on her bed stand for about two years," Wyatt recalled.

"My favorite part of volunteering is the feeling that I'm needed," Wyatt remarked as he paraphrased a quote that he had once read about a man's main drives being survival and wanting to be needed.

"You are needed," Mendonsa confirmed matter-of-factly.

## HOW YOU CAN HELP

In 1993, John Wyatt answered a Bay Area Community Services advertisement asking for volunteers who were comfortable in handling their own personal finances and who may be interested in helping an elderly person four to five hours per month. Volunteers are asked to make a one-year commitment.

As a Money Management Assistance Program representative payee volunteer, he is appointed by the Social Security Administration to receive and manage a client's government benefits.

There is a waiting list of about 10 low-income elderly who need the money management service. In conjunction with the American Association of Retired Persons, BACS offers assistance to persons aged 60 or over who live in Alameda County and have neither family nor friends available to help them. The program strives to prevent financial abuse and exploitation of frail, older adults and to enable them to remain financially viable and in their homes. BACS' primary goal and responsibility is to offer appropriate, cost-effective alternatives to institutionalization that will improve the quality of life for those it serves.

For more information about BACS' services or to make a donation, call 613-0320.

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## EL CERRITO PTA NEWS

### Adams Middle School

■ Join Adams PTA. Membership fee is only \$6. Checks can be payable to "Adams PTA". Mail to Adams PTA, 5000 Patterson Circle, Richmond, CA 94805. Please indicate each member's name and the student's name. Our membership drive has been expanded this year to include not only parents but students, siblings, relatives, community members, staff, teachers, and alumni.

■ Yearbooks are on sale for \$25 in the main office. Students may purchase them during their lunch period or after school. Make checks payable to Adams Middle School.

It's that time of year again and I can't let it go by without saying something about the old Chanukah Christmas dilemma. The problem is, I don't know what to say. There's not a lot to say about Chanukah and I'm conflicted about Christmas. My family doesn't celebrate it but it's impossible to escape. It's in the store windows and in the newspapers. It's on the radio and television. It's there when store clerks wish me a Merry Christmas or when people ask if I've gotten all my Christmas shopping done. It's there when the butcher asks if I've ordered my Christmas ham.

I never know how to respond. It's not that I have anything against Christmas, it's just an awkward time of year for me. It's a time when I feel very much like an outsider, like there's something big going on and I don't get it. I don't do trees or carols, stockings on the mantle or Christmas dinners. So when these Christmas thoughts come my way, I'm not sure what to do. I don't want to sound like a bah humbug kind of person so sometimes I wish people a Merry Christmas back and tell them that my Christmas shopping was finished months ago. And usually it's simpler to tell the butcher that I'm a vegetarian and don't eat ham. Lying is easier than going through the I'm Jewish and Jews don't celebrate Christmas routine.

Telling someone that you don't celebrate Christmas is like trying to make the faithful believe that you really don't care who wins the Big Game. They don't get it. Some people think that Christmas is a national holiday, like the Fourth of July and can't understand why any

■ Fundraisers: Adams is enrolled in the eScrip program (ID#4654695) and Target Guest Card program. We expect Albertson Community Partner cards in the next few weeks. The music department is also participating in the Pepsi Notes program which runs from November until Jan. 7.

■ PTA Voice Message Line is 510-464-1360, ext 70. Hear about upcoming



## RONNIE CAPLANE

Under Construction

American wouldn't celebrate it Not long ago someone asked my daughter if Jews celebrate Thanksgiving.

We do. Sometimes people try to equate Chanukah to Christmas, and think of it as a mini-Christmas.

It's not. But for the fact that both holidays fall in December - except for Chanukah sometimes - they have nothing in common.

As holidays go Chanukah is a pretty minor one. It doesn't have much ritual or many props. Even the gift giving that goes on isn't part of the tradition. There aren't cardboard boxes in the attics filled with heirloom ornaments, fancy nutcrackers, costumed dolls, needlepoint stockings, wreaths or colored lights lovingly wrapped in tissue paper and brought out every December. There isn't a seasonal wardrobe that's pulled out at the end of November with ties, sweaters, sweatshirts, socks and jewelry decorated with Christmas trees and candy canes, Santas and reindeer. I was well into adulthood before I even knew there was such a thing as a tree stand.

Chanukah has dreidels, candles and menorahs. The candles are consumable so they have to be replaced every year. The dreidels are cheap - about 10 cents each. Maybe one or two survive from one year to the next but dreidels

are like tinsel. You just buy new ones rather than trying to preserve the old ones. And this year I didn't even have to pull our menorahs out of storage. I never got around to putting them away last year.

Most Jewish holidays are pretty simple and can be explained in three sentences: They tried to kill us. We won. Let's eat. Chanukah, like other Jewish holidays, comes down to the food - potato pancakes, applesauce, sour cream, donuts, cheap chocolate wrapped in gaudy gold foil.

So I guess I end up putting my own Jewish spin on Christmas and think of it in terms of food - eggnog, butter cookies with colored sprinkles on top, chocolate covered marshmallow Santas, bags of red and green M&M's, and candy canes. And when I can finally find ribbon candy in the store then I know the Christmas season has begun.

Christmas means parties. And parties mean food - buffets and dinners, hors d'oeuvres and desserts. There are parties that I look forward to all year long. Parties where I know the menu and start craving the food as soon as the invitation arrives.

To me Christmas Eve means Chinese food followed by popcorn and candy at the movies.

Maybe I've finally got this Christmas-Chanukah thing worked out. It all comes down to food and Christmas is really just one big mondo Chanukah.

Ronnie Caplane is a contributing columnist for Hills Newspapers. E-mail her at [ccmontclair@cc-times.com](mailto:ccmontclair@cc-times.com)

ing events, Academy updates, minimum day schedules, special dates.

■ PTA eMail - Weekly PTA bulletins are being sent. If interested, please send your email address to Connie Chan Kucera at [cchan2429@aol.com](mailto:cchan2429@aol.com)

### Castro Elementary

■ SCHOOL SITE SUPERVI-

SORS NEEDED: 1 hour daily from noon to 1 p.m. at \$7.50 per hour. Call 234-6200 for more information.

■ Fundraisers: Castro is enrolled in eScrip (ID#137627554), Albertson's, Target, and SchoolPop fundraising programs. Call Peggy Wilcox at 510-236-0761.

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# Past Minute GIFT IDEAS

AN ADVERTISING FEATURE

## What You Should Do When You Have A Smoky Fireplace

by Honey Do Repair and Chimney

Have your fireplace and chimney evaluated and swept annually. Make sure that your chimney is free of obstructions and is safe to operate. Hire a professional licensed chimney sweep to ensure that your appliance is performing to optimum performance. We have some secrets that may make your life a little easier.

### PREHEAT THE CHIMNEY

Just like a chef preheats a stove, you should preheat the chimney. Before you light a fire, open the damper and then roll up a few pieces of newspaper and burn the paper to preheat the chimney to push the cold air the chimney up and out of the way and replace it with warm air coming off the burning newspaper. Then go ahead and light the fire as you would do normally.

### USE ONLY SEASONED WOOD

Use only split seasoned wood. Do not use green wood or burn whole logs. Do not burn garbage, painted boards, pressure treated wood, wrapping paper, Christmas trees or anything else in your chimney.

### OPEN THE DAMPER

There is a damper either at the top of the chimney or a metal plate at the top of the fireplace opening. You can open the top mounted damper by releasing the chain mounted on the wall in the fireplace or pushing the level to open the metal plate damper.

### OPEN A WINDWARD WINDOW

There is a tremendous amount of air that is needed to supply air for the fire and it is going up the chimney. You need to provide replacement air. Opening a

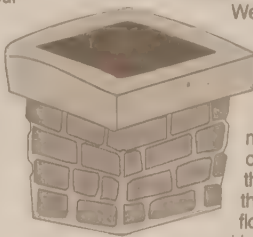
window can do this. Honey Do can also provide you with a replacement air device that is inserted in the wall next to the fireplace. Please ask your Honey Do service technician for additional information.

### RAISE THE METAL GRATE

You can raise the metal grate with firebricks. This will allow more air to get under the wood and may help provide more draft and flow

and reduce smoking.

### REDUCE THE SIZE OF THE FIREPLACE OPENING



We can show you how to reduce the opening with a decorative metal plate over the top of the opening that may help flow and reduce smoking problems. If your fireplace is too large to draft properly, we can help you match the size of the fireplace opening to the size of your chimney. When they

are properly balanced your fireplace works much better.

### TURN OFF YOUR FURNACE

The forced air furnace fan may depressurize the room in which the fireplace is located. Both the fireplace and the furnace are fighting for the same limited amount of air in the home and especially in the fireplace room. The fan pulls air out of the occupied space in the home, heats it and returns it to the house. What often happens is that it will pull smoke out of the fireplace.

### TRIM BACK TREE LIMBS

Tree limbs hanging over the termination of your chimney may interrupt the natural flow of the smoke and may contribute to poor drafting problems.

For more information about your fireplace call Honey Do Repair and Chimney Company at (510) 531-9500, [www.honeydorepair.co](http://www.honeydorepair.co), email: [hdr@honeydorepair.com](mailto:hdr@honeydorepair.com)



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## Her Holy Crusade.

Mrs. Charlton Edholm to Speak at Friends Church on Rescue Work.

Mrs. Charlton Edholm will again address a Berkeley audience in the Friends Church on Haste street tomorrow morning, her subject being, "Rescue Work." She is meeting with great success in her



Mrs. CHARLTON EDHOLM

"Help-in-Time" effort to provide homes for the poorly-paid self-respecting factory girls of San Francisco. Last Sunday Mrs. Edholm addressed a congregation at Golden Gate and in the evening at Loma. At both places the people were greatly stirred by her touching appeal. The Ladies' Aid Society of the Golden Gate M. E. Church will furnish a room in the house. Recently a wealthy lady of unscrupulous instincts has completely furnished the two large parlors of the new house, and help is coming from the most unexpected sources. One gentleman contributed \$10 per month toward the support of the excellent enterprise.

Mrs. Edholm's time for the coming month is being rapidly taken by the various churches. Her coming

always draws a large audience, and the effect of her inspiring words is to impel her hearers to a deeper consecration to Christian effort, especially in a practical work, for which she stands.

That Mrs. Edholm's work is beginning to have wide spreading effect is evidenced in the sale of her great book, "Traffic in Girls and Rescue Missions." They are sold everywhere. Twenty thousand have already been disposed of, and the demand is constantly increasing. No book has yet been written that is so much needed as a warning to the young people. Young men should read it just as well as young women. Thousands of poor girls are being saved from bitter misdeeds in life by this timely volume, and by

By Richard Schwartz

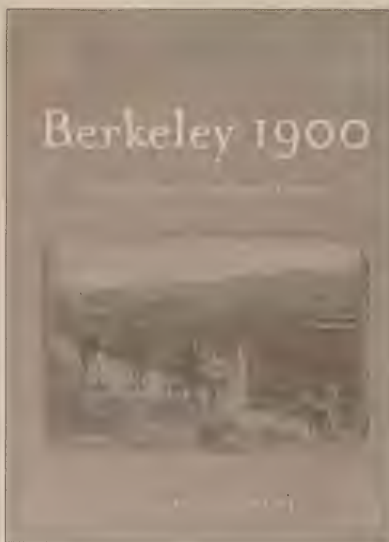
How did the people of Berkeley and the Bay Area deal with its poor and destitute at the turn of the century? I believe most of us have never even considered the idea.

With the holiday season frolicking about us, we also take time to make some contribution, however small or large, of time or money to assist those who may be in need.

Our governments and charities stratagize on ways to assist those without food, housing or medical care. Or even without friends. Having heard of some programs launched in the last 10 years that seemed novel, I was surprised to see similar efforts being made 100 years ago, as the people of that time, too, struggled to lessen suffering.

Old and young contributed in many ways to help any number of programs. And some people died of starvation in their midst. Times have not changed much.

Richard Schwartz's new book, "Berkeley 1900, Daily Life at the Turn of the Century," a snapshot of daily life 100 years ago as described in the pages of the Berkeley Daily Gazette, is available at Berkeley bookstores. His first book, "The Circle of Stones, An Investigation of the Circle of Stones in Stampede Valley, Sierra County, California," is also available at many Berkeley bookstores. The Berkeley Historical Society continues its monthly Sunday slide lecture and booksigning series on Jan. 14, with an appearance by Schwartz from 3-5 p.m. at the Berkeley History Center in the Veterans Memorial Building, 1931 Center St. Admission is free.



The next installment is Feb. 25 with Gray Brechin author of "Imperial San Francisco: Urban Power, Earthly Ruin," a book about the impact and legacy of the Hearsts and other powerful early families. For details on the series call the society at 848-0181.

## Not Insane; Only Hungry

Miss Luzia Suquena, the Portuguese woman who was taken to the Receiving Hospital from her ranch near Hayward on a charge of insanity, was ordered discharged from custody after an examination by the Lunacy Commissioners yesterday morning. Judge S. G. Nye testified on behalf of the woman that her dementia was caused by privations. He said that she was annoyed by her neighbors, who were trying to secure her small farm.

## Spuds for the Poor.

Potato vines may soon be growing in the vacant lots of San Francisco. Philanthropic women looking to extend their charitable work have taken up the "Pingree potato-patch plan," and a big entertainment will be given to raise the necessary funds. The adoption of the project at this time is not the outcome of necessity, as was the innovation of Pingree of Detroit, but is due to a conclusion that those who need help can best be helped by allowing them to work for what they receive.

The social science section of the California Club will direct the venture. It is estimated that the potatoes saved the Poor Commissioners of Detroit \$30,000 in one year.

## To Aid the Poor.

The school children of Berkeley are taking a great deal of interest in the boxes which have been placed in the schools for a Thanksgiving offering to the poor of Berkeley, and if parents will encourage their children in this work the Berkeley Benevolent Society will receive such a liberal donation as to enable it to make many a heart happy on Thanksgiving day. The boxes will be collected after school opens Wednesday morning.

# Happy Holidays!



## The Famine Fund.

The following amounts have been added today to the fund collected by the Bay cities for the famine sufferers of India:

Total for today..... \$23 15  
Previously reported..... 928 10

Total.....\$592 35  
Whilst public interest is turning inward in the time of her terrible need, we would like to call attention to the little boxes placed in

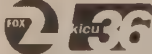
the different banks at their main counter windows for contributions. All money placed in them will be forwarded weekly to Rajputana, the very heart of the famine district, where Miss Lillian Marks, a native Californian, the sole American representative engaged in relief work in that particular district, is located. A box has been placed in the First National Bank of Berkeley for contributions from Berkeley citizens.

## Come celebrate ARF's 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary (that's 70 years if you're a dog).

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THE TIMES

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Weekends: 7:30am - 7pm

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# Holiday Gift Packages

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## Company's Coming

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## Holiday Cheer 2000

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## Snack Master 2000

This bulging basket filled with treats will be a big hit-literally! From office share to family fare, this collection of goodies is definitely a crowd pleaser. Snack Master 2000 includes a Locker Quadratini Napolitaner (hazelnut cream-filled wafers), Jelly Belly jelly beans in 39 flavors, Hapi Japanese party mix, Sierra chocolate shortbread cookies, Mashuga cinnamon-pecan cookies, Torn Ranch mixed-nut brittle round, Pim's

European chocolate biscuits with orange filling, Cleary's maple-cream cookies, Haute Cuisine roasted-onion crackers, Pringles original potato chips, Hand to Mouth artichoke ambrosia, Sunflower Food and Spice Company toasted sunflower nuts, Jo's Candies chocolate-covered graham crackers, Torn Ranch Chocolati champagne-apricot biscotti bar, Suzanne Pickett Designs Lump of Coal licorice, Torn Ranch milk chocolate raisins, Metropolis jelly candies, To Market To Market Popeye's Passion spinach dip, and Julianne Jellies. **\$89.99**

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## Campaign

FROM PAGE A1

with the Albany Teachers Association (ATA), further fueled an already emotional battle.

Teachers picketing has become a daily part of the process, as well as mailing out fliers that encourage parents to contact board members.

After school, they take turns showing up on corners in front of schools. Firefighters and bus drivers have been among the most vocal to honk as they drive past to show their support.

Teachers may also resign from district-wide committees like the District Math Committee, the School Site Council, and Key Communicators Committee, a group made up of many areas of the community.

"We're just holding our own," said

Bowen.

Some are doing more than that. Because a contract agreement needs a 3-2 vote to be passed by the school board, teachers are targeting board members they believe will be more sympathetic — Mary Wallmann, Owen T. Jones and David Farrell.

They haven't wasted much time, according to Wallmann. "I've had lots of e-mails and phone calls, and almost universally they support teachers' request for money," she said. "They realize it will be a tight fix. They say they'll help."

But the decision may not be hers to make. "I cannot accept a budget if there is no money for it," she said.

Wallmann, who was a teacher from 1966 to 1992, is one board member who knows the perspective from both sides of the picket line. She has also been president of the ATA, and in the 1980s waved her own sign before the school board at the time.

"I recall being angry," she said, but ultimately she got her raise.

Today, it would be hard to find a resident who doesn't have an opinion on the topic, and teachers have begun to garner some support among students as well.

Meanwhile, others are posting their views on the Internet. Two days ago the district added a section to its Web site to provide the public with details of the negotiation, and ATA president Dave De Hart is also planning his counter-Web site.

What may further the problem is that Albany teachers are drawing examples from districts that simply do things differently.

In Berkeley, for example, teachers last June were offered a pay hike amounting to 11 percent over a two-year period, thus terminating any threat of a strike.

However, salaries for other groups were not included in the increase.

With his wife, Nazneen, said he has a host of changes in mind, from major interior renovations to expanded merchandise.

But adjustments will come slowly, he said. He wants to start by listening to customers, discovering their needs, explaining what is and isn't possible.

So far, Sultan said, shoppers are embracing the change.

"People want me to succeed, that's a really special thing."

## Market

FROM PAGE A1

Because business had been slipping, Marguerite Young, 58, Young's daughter, said she thought it would be tough to sell the market.

Running any small grocery is difficult these days, but Young's need for some updates, Marguerite Young said.

She was wrong.

Sultan made a good offer right

away, Young said. The sale includes the entire building, which also houses other business. Prudential Realty will continue to occupy the second floor. Young was especially pleased to sell to someone who has a vision of a neighborhood store.

"It's the end of a long era of the Youngs being involved in Kensington," Young said. "I feel grateful to the community for so many years of support. (Sultan) has the energy and motivation, and hopefully the resources, to give it what it needs."

Sultan, who is running Young's

## Good

FROM PAGE A1

For example, Good initially opposed the construction of a new middle school, asking to see more information on the project. "He stuck to his guns and finally realized he was going nowhere, and the district prevailed," recalled Ely. "I didn't agree with him on the stand, but he was consistent."

And, while many residents along Marin Avenue have fought to "calm" traffic, particularly near the Marin and San Pablo Avenue intersection, Good continues to argue the opposite.

Speed bumps on Marin are his biggest fear, although Ely and others don't believe they will be installed and alternative traffic improvement plans are already in the works.

On the other hand, Good said he was on neither side of the casino issue at Golden Gate Fields. While he opposed placing the item on the ballot in 1996, he did not view the issue as a moral one, he said.

Good has mainly positive memories of his work with the city, saying any disagreements among council members never became personal.

However, he does criticize the city for not doing more to snatch up buildings when it has had the chance, such as purchasing one to house the constantly moving maintenance center. He also fears local authority is becoming too centralized in the hands of the city administrator, a position the city is seeking to fill.

As for what lies ahead, a future test will be whether the city succeeds in purchasing land near University Village from the University of California to be converted into playing fields, according to Good.

"The university owes us something. We must not fail to buy it," he said.

Though Good fears the voice of dissent may be lost upon his departure, Ely isn't so sure. Newcomer Jewel Okawachi, who stepped into her four-year seat last week, is not known to shy away from an issue, he said.

As for Good's more personal side,

he is not an easy read.

But if you can tell a person by his pet, then Good's two black and white felines at home may say something about their owner.

He claims to be a definite cat-person, confessing, "I like my pet to be cool — not too enthusiastic or loyal."

While he is rigid in his beliefs, colleagues have seen a softer side to him, as well. He was thanked by one co-worker at his last council meeting for such gestures as leaving chocolate bunnies and Santas on people's desks.

"I sneak around before Christmas and Easter," he confessed. "It's a strange thing to do, but when you're a chocoholic, your mind works in strange ways."

Retiring from the council doesn't mean he'll be resting much. Good will continue to teach physics full-time at Cal State in Hayward and will take the opportunity to seek a position on the Albany Parks and Recreation Commission.

That is the area that holds most interest for him, he said.

## Town

FROM PAGE A1

In a similar vein is Betty Buginas, a former reporter and city editor at the West County Times who operates the "El Cerrito Wire" a Web site ([www.elcerritowire.com](http://www.elcerritowire.com)) dedicated to — you guessed it — El Cerrito. Betty is also a volunteer Webmaster for the city's Web site and the site for Castro Elementary School, where she teaches. Not to mention the site for the West Contra Costa Education Fund and the teachers' union (they can all be linked from the Wire Web site). More on Betty Buginas and her Web site to follow in a future installment of this column.

Clara Rae Genser has been with the Journal almost since its inception, profiling people in Albany, El Cerrito and Kensington. Before that she wrote for the Richmond Independent. Clara Rae is a rich community resource on her own, and she never tires of talking to new, interesting people and chronicling them in our pages.

Week-in, week-out for most of the past decade K. Osborn has faithfully compiled the Albany police reports, keeping residents informed about what is going on in their neighborhood.

We should also get some shouts out to others who have been essential in informing people about what's going on in the community. They include, in no particular order, Tom Lillenthal at Albany High School, Julie Winkelstein and Paul Rockwell at the Albany Library, Janet Hildebrand and her dedicated crew at the El Cerrito Library, beloved columnist Dave Greer, Roxanne Wiley at the Albany

Chamber of Commerce, Sewall Glinternick at the El Cerrito Chamber of Commerce, Eve Ma of Celebrating Culture & Community in El Cerrito, our favorite graphic artist Debbie Weeks, Lori Dair and the Sustainable El Cerritos, Corey Mason at KECG FM (El Cerrito High School's radio station), Sue Wittenberg of the Ed. Fund, the always friendly Rotary Club of El Cerrito, Bill Pezick and

the gang at the Albany Rotary, Jane Del Simone of the WCCUSD Adult Education program, Mollie Hazen for her work on the EC July 4 celebration, Dennis and Reggie for their annual block party (that's what a community is all about), Verne Odlin (photographer on the spot), and, well, we'll hear from everyone we've left out. Thanks and happy holidays to everyone.

## TABLE LAMPS

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Maintenance, secretaries and other unionized positions are still in negotiation, according to Berkeley spokeswoman Karen Sarlo.

In Albany, using additional cost of living allowance funds made available to all districts by the state to increase teacher salaries alone is not a likely option, according to Feusier. "Historically, we have not done that," she said.

On the other hands, West County School District teachers approved an agreement this week that gives a 10 percent salary increase to all employee groups, retroactive to July 1 of this school year.

Albany's projected salary increases in non-teaching areas, estimated at close to \$540,000, would have caused overall costs to soar. Thus, even a 7 percent increase, which the district agreed on last July, would be impossible, district officials said.

That has caused some teachers to ask why the district initially offered an increase that would put it in the red.

According to Wallmann, such a move would be illegal. As for other points the district makes on its Web site, it is unclear how Albany's situation is different from that in other districts.

For instance, it cites annual increases on the salary schedule "due to acquiring years of experience, or by accruing professional development credits," none of which is unique to the district. "That is pretty standard," said Berkeley's Sarlo.

Some costs in Albany are projected and have yet to be implemented, which may lead to more questions, as well. Examples are plans to add two teachers in the fourth and fifth grades, at a cost of \$104,000, meaning each would be brought in at \$20,000 more than the entering salary.

Sarlo conceded that the issue is tricky, and that other areas may be compromised. "It can be a problem because if you give that big of an increase to one group, there is a chance that there will be dissatisfaction in other groups," she said.

Still, in Berkeley teachers are made the highest priority next to children, according to Sarlo — at least for now.

"Everybody has been in a cost-cutting mode all year," she said. A current hiring freeze in Berkeley means

school districts.) Herein lies the \$100,000 question I would very much like your feedback on. Do you think the WCCUSD should (lengthen) the terms of existing board members by one year to go on an even year election cycle? (Those of you on the West County School Watch e-mail list will soon receive an electronic poll regarding this issue.)

### Measure M oversight committee

As reported several weeks ago this column, the WCCUSD is recruiting members for the Citizens Oversight Committee to be formed as a result of the successful Measure M bond election of last November. If you are interested in applying for committee, application forms available on the West County School Watch web site at [www.wccsd.org/west-county/column.htm](http://www.wccsd.org/west-county/column.htm) or by phoning the superintendent's office at 510-620-2008.

### Ed Fund seeks volunteer graphic designer

were not afraid of the officers in uniform," he added. "Officer Du Bord talked about what it takes to become a Police Officer — they asked who wants to become a Police Officer and everybody raised their hand."

Morley said he hopes the program will eventually expand to involve ad-

## Crime

FROM PAGE A1

the teachers, they all loved it; they all want us to come back," Morley said. "The kids really enjoyed it; they

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# Hillside garden an educational work in progress

Plants from different climates, parts of the world thrive in Kensington plot

By Clare Curley  
STAFF WRITER

KENSINGTON — Michael Barclay's dense, vast garden tucked away on a residential corner in Kensington has remained remarkably intact, considering he's hardly touched it in more than a year and a half.

Barclay, a professional gardening consultant, is getting back on his feet both literally and figuratively after an accident that broke his back and left him paralyzed nearly two years ago.

After the accident, doctors feared he would never walk again. Ten days later he wiggled his toes, and he has been making a gradual comeback to the world of gardening ever since.

For more than 25 years, his ongoing project has been his garden at home, which overflows onto the streets of Kensington. Walking up the south side of Yale Avenue, people find themselves submerged in a tunnel of trees, bushes and vines.

Rhododendrons, camellias, irises, tulips all among the countless varieties in bloom at various points of the year.

"Literally, I've been gardening since the day I bought this house," he said.

The long-time East Bay garden expert is slowly returning to his two jobs, first as a lecturer on operas, and secondly as a gardening consultant. His company, Opera Education International, lends out operas in audio and video formats to people who are visually and physically impaired.

In the past year, Barclay has discovered the importance of this firsthand.

"It's sort of like my life has come full circle," he noted.

Barclay, who was born in 1943, described his father as a "living things" person.

His father's hobby included rearing all types of animals and it was the catalyst for what became Barclay's obsession with plant life.

His was no typical childhood — he grew up in Long Island with at least 10 aquariums of his own. As an adolescent, he spent summers in Pennsylvania with his family. There he started a garden of wild rhododendrons and mountain laurels. "I was using all native plants," he said.

He later attended UC Berkeley's graduate school for a degree in Comparative Literature, and later pursued a doctorate of letters and musicology from the University of Bologna.

The garden itself has been a work in progress. "I didn't quite know what my garden would consist of, but I did have a color scheme in mind," he recalled.

That scheme — pink and white — may sound prim or even dull.

Not the case. By "pink," he actually means anything ranging from rosy pink to "blood clot," as he calls it — "red turning black, and to me a somewhat sinister color."

Such a setup could hardly go un-



SUCCESSFULLY TESTING the Bay Area climate, Michael Barclay's internationally known garden at his Kensington home is a lush combination of plants from

Maintaining a plant that may come from, say, some wet island thousands of miles away, is not impossible. The trick lies in simulating a particular climate.

noticed in a town the size of Kensington, and over the years, word has gotten around about the garden, in which he has labeled plants that he brought in from all over the world. "I find little old ladies crawling around on their hands and knees copying down the names of flowers," said Barclay.

According to Richard Ward, who oversees the Dry Garden Nursery in North Oakland, colors are Barclay's specialty.

"My pallet has expanded and I've learned to use other colors," said Barclay. He used to hate pastels and oranges. Now he plants those colors up against purple foliage. "Over the years that's been a movement in the country as a whole."

"He can talk for hours on stuff like this," said Ward.

Ward also hinted that Barclay's personality is as complex as his garden. "He's a walking encyclopedia,

and what he doesn't know he'll make up," he said.

Barclay didn't consider a career in horticulture until he was in his mid-30s, when a friend suggested he work for a nursery. He made his mark in the 1980s by winning first prize at the San Francisco Landscape Garden Show, and later won for best collector through the Berkeley Horticultural Nursery.

Another movement Barclay has helped along in the Bay Area is bringing in more of an influx of foreign foliage. By learning how to care for plants from other climates, he claims, the possibilities are endless.

He expanded his rhododendron collection when he introduced to his garden the largest flower of the rhododendron family, from Burma. The large white trumpet flowers exude a perfume that carries for blocks.

Maintaining a plant that may come from, say, some wet island

thousands of miles away, is not impossible. The trick lies in simulating a particular climate.

For example, this year Barclay ordered what he considers the most rare and drought-resistant species, of lilies called Poor Knights, from two groups of islands off of New Zealand.

"They just sat there looking kind of rubbery," he said. But after infusing the soil with salt water, the flowers bloomed.

Other species one can find by poking around in his yard come from South Africa and southern Australia.

The Internet has infiltrated almost every aspect of modern life and it's no different for Barclay and gardening. Some pastimes of his, and there are many of them, have included selling seeds via the Web. The University of Amsterdam bought 1,000 Poor Knights Lilies seeds after he advertised them.

Ward has known Barclay for years both professionally and as a friend. He noted, "He has a marvelous garden. It's a shame he doesn't have the abilities to work in it as much as he'd like."

One of Barclay's gardening fortes, according to Ward is his extensive memory. "Plants names are easy prey for him," he noted.

Now, the area's elderly garden fanatics may be his next prey.

Barclay won't be able to garden any time soon, but he has several ideas on the back burner, including teaching gardening as a hobby to elderly people with physical limitations that he understands only too well. "I'm finding a whole area I knew just a little about in horticulture therapy," he said.

He also speaks of writing a book entitled "Plants for Bay Area's Less Benign Climates," and said he's finished the first chapter of the "Bay Area Rhododendron Bible."

Arid, while he educates others, he doesn't want to rule out learning more himself.

"I've been giving thought to going back to Cal and doing a graduate degree in landscape architecture," he said.

Although he is just beginning to get around on crutches, navigating

JUST ABOUT every plant in Barclay's garden is labeled with a name tag.

the roller coaster of his main mission. It's not impossible, but it's a long way from the current state of affairs.

of plants, as long as he

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# Real Estate & Home

Advertising supplement to The Berkeley Voice, The Journal, The Montclarion, The Piedmonter

December 22, 2000

Section B

**Bobbie Reid** offers tempting (and very presidential) holiday recipes [B6]

**Open Home Guide** Check out the East Bay real estate scene [B7]

## Tuscan-style jewel in North Berkeley hills



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## Is SAM for you?

### ■ Taking a look at the Shared Appreciation Mortgage

Mortgage Muddiest



By Karen Senzig

#### How does the SAM work?

The SAM is a fixed-rate, fixed-term loan that can run up to 30 years. In exchange for a lower interest rate, you give up a portion of the home's future value — the difference between what it's worth now and what it will be worth then.

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Let's say that a standard 30-year-fixed-rate mortgage of \$275,000 (the maximum conforming loan amount as of December 2000) is 7.50 percent. With a 20 percent appreciation shared with the lender, it would be reduced to 7.00 percent; with 30 percent it would be reduced to 6.50 percent; with 40 percent it would be reduced to 6.00 percent and with 50 shared appreciation it would be reduced to 5.50 percent. (Please note that the actual appreciation share/rate reductions are set by individual institutions and may differ from this example.)

Any increase in the value of the home would be split with your mortgage lender if you refinance, move (paying off the loan in the process) or otherwise terminate the loan.

That was when the notion of the Shared Appreciation Mortgage (SAM) was introduced. The idea was to give borrowers a lower interest rate — as much as 2 percent — in exchange for sharing the property's increased future value with the lender. It promised both easier qualification and a monthly payment that was easier on the budget.

But the concept never caught on. About the same time, the Adjustable Rate Mortgage (ARM) was also introduced with both a lower starting short term rate which was used to qualify the borrower and potential low rate tomorrow. The ARM proved much more attractive, even providing a life cap (the highest the rate could go). Due to lack of interest, SAM was shelved.

Now however, with the high cost of housing and higher interest rates than in past years, ARMs have lost much of their luster with start rates not far below the fixed rate mortgages. SAM has been dusted off and is once again being presented to the public.

see SENZIG on page B2

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FROM PAGE B1

It may be tempting to take a SAM for a while and then refinance to avoid sharing the appreciation, but SAMs have a sort of prepayment penalty to keep you from doing so. Typically, if you prepay more than 20 percent of the outstanding balance during the first three years of the loan, you will be penalized the lesser of:

- a) 2 percent of the prepayment amount less 20 percent per year; or
- b) six months stated interest which would be charged on the prepayment amount which is greater than the 20 percent level; or
- c) the maximum allowable penalty by law (which varies by state).

As with all prepayment penalties, it is actually an anti-refinancing clause, since the fee is based on the amount remaining after the 20 percent per year discount.

Using the first scenario, if you were to decide that after 24 months of paying on that \$275,000 SAM at 5.50 percent (you opted to share the appreciation 50-50), you would have reduced your loan principal to about \$267,400. Then you would subtract 40 percent — 20 percent for each year — for a base amount of 160,440. Multiply that by 2 percent and your prepayment penalty would be \$3208.80 which is less than 6 months stated interest of \$4,537.50.

And, of course you would have to split whatever appreciation the property had earned.

Selling your home doesn't trigger this clause. You would owe only the principal balance plus the shared appreciation.

Since appreciation is at the heart of this mortgage, it's important to know how the term is defined.

Virtually all improvements or upgrades you make to the home will count as appreciation; so will the appreciation that results from market conditions. So, if you add a bathroom or finish the basement, for example, you are liable for the agreed-upon share of the increase in value.

Should you give away up to 50 percent of the increase — adding as much as 50 percent to the cost of your project? You don't necessarily have to, if you follow the rules of the SAM closely.

The SAM's loan documents state that a Qualified Major Home Improvement (QMHI) can be excluded from the calculation. A QMHI is one which increases the living area of the home; any "substantial" kitchen and bath modernization; new decks, porches, patios, garages and paving an unpaved driveway. In addition, the total cost of the project needs to exceed \$10,000 or 6 percent of the original value (or adjusted value) of the home and the project must be completed within six months of starting it.

Items the lender deems as "ordinary maintenance" may not qualify as a QMHI. The list typically includes repair or replacement of roofs, ceilings, walls, floors, foundations, heating and/or air conditioning systems, electrical and plumbing systems,

windows, doors, landscaping, pools, sheds and even paint and wallpaper.

To make certain that the lender doesn't share in the appreciation that a QMHI provides, you need to get a home appraisal before and after the project is completed. Also, before you install new hardwood floors or double pane windows, consider combining the project with a QMHI.

If your home value declines during a SAM term, the lender doesn't receive anything additional. You are only liable for the mortgage amount.

Is a SAM for you? Consider the following:

1) You may be able to qualify for a larger mortgage with the same income than a traditional fixed-rate mortgage.

2) A SAM is a complicated mortgage loan structure that makes you partners with your lender. It is not for "fixer-upper" properties that require major refurbishing.

3) A SAM does require that your crystal ball be in good working order. We have experienced huge increases in home values in the last couple of years and that appreciation has to be shared with the lender. However, in a market that stabilizes and the value doesn't change much, you would owe little if anything and have enjoyed a cut rate mortgage.

4) A SAM may be a good as refinancing product, especially if you have little equity. Usually, high equity loans also have high interest rates and the SAM could give you a lower rate and cash now and defer the outlay until later.

5) A SAM may or may not be a product suited to long term, either. The loan documents specifically note that on a statistical basis, you should assume that the total interest cost of a SAM will be equal to or more than the total cost of a conventional mortgage. A SAM could cost you much more than you expected or budgeted.

6) Deducting the mortgage interest is easy with a traditional mortgage; a SAM adds a serious layer of complexity, as noted in (in capital letters) in the disclosures. It also states that "the application of federal income tax rules (as they apply) to a SAM is both uncertain and complicated, and the rules will affect each borrower differently". In other words you need to contact an accountant.

7) At this time, you must apply directly with the institution offering the SAM. It is not being offered through mortgage brokers.

Although there are not fixed rate mortgages in the open market that can offer you 2 percent below the market rate, there are alternatives to a SAM. Specifically, the lender funded 2-1 buydown which offers the first years interest at 2 percent below the note rate, the second year at 1 percent below the note rate and then years from 3-30 at the note rate.

It will be interesting to see if the demand for this loan instrument will be any different than in 1982 or will it again be shelved in Mortgage Madness.

Karen Senzig is co-owner of Montclair Mortgage with her husband Scott. She can be reached 510-339-8511, fax 510-339-3814, e-mail at ksenzig@aol.com. Please contact her with any mortgage questions

Townhouse or condo: what you should consider

Tired of mowing the lawn? Ready for a low-maintenance lifestyle? Perhaps it's time to consider buying a condominium or townhouse. But before forging ahead, consider the following.

When you buy a single family detached residence, you become the exclusive owner of the structure and the property it's located on. The property boundaries distinguish what is yours from what belongs to your neighbors.

When you purchase an attached dwelling such as a townhouse or condominium, you obtain exclusive ownership rights to the interior space of your particular unit. But, you own the common area and grounds, fences, shared walls and facilities with other owners in the condo or townhouse (also called a planned unit development or PUD).

As a condo or townhouse owner, you automatically become a part of a homeowner's association to which you pay dues, usually on a monthly basis. Homeowner's dues usually cover the cost of maintaining and insuring the common areas. Precisely

what is covered by the homeowner's dues varies from one complex to the next, so make sure you find out what's covered before buying. The dues may also fund a reserve account to cover major expenses like resurfacing tennis courts or replacing homeowner's roofs.

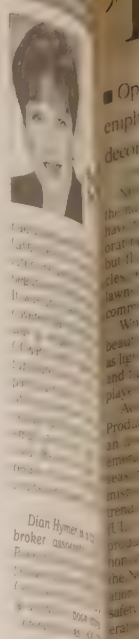
Buying a condominium involves some of the same issues that are involved in buying a detached home. The unit should minimally meet your housing needs, be within your price range, be reasonably priced and be thoroughly inspected by a professional home inspector. But additional issues come into play when you buy into a PUD. Attached housing projects are governed by Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions (CC&Rs) which restrict ownership rights. For example, CC&Rs may include restrictions on remodeling, parking and renting. Some CC&Rs prohibit pets. Make sure that you read and understand the CC&Rs before you buy. If the CC&Rs are cumbersome and incomprehensible, hire an attorney with expertise in PUDs to review the CC&Rs for you.

Be sure to read the bylaws and articles of incorporation of the Home Owner's Association and review a current financial statement. It's also advisable to obtain copies of the minutes from the last several homeowner's association meetings.

Find out if the homeowner's association is involved in any litigation. Perhaps you've heard horror stories about condo owners suing the developer for shoddy construction. If a condo seems underpriced, there may be a reason for this. If the association loses the case and does not have sufficient reserves, the condo owners might have to pay to repair the defects.

One of the best ways to get information about a PUD is to talk with current owners. Be sure to ask what they like and dislike about living there. How is the soundproofing? Are there any parking problems? Is there ample storage space? Are the current owners satisfied with the homeowner association management?

A condo that is unique should raise a red flag in your mind. One buyer paid top price for a condo that



Dian Hyman is a broker/assessor.

Bleach, fungicide team up, conquer mildew

By Popular Mechanics  
AP SPECIAL FEATURES

**Q:** The cathedral ceiling in my 10-year-old house was OK until five years ago, when we noticed black spots appearing through the sand finish. I painted it and it looked good but the black spots came back. No matter what I do, they come back. I have asked many carpenters what causes it, but none seem to know. Can you help?

**A:** The black spots are probably mildew spores. Mildew is a fungus and unless you kill it, it will come through a new layer of paint, especially a water-based paint. Try washing the ceiling with a solution of bleach, detergent and water. After the ceiling is dry, paint it with a mildew-resistant paint or use a fungicide additive in the paint.

**Q:** My two-story house is 40 feet wide on each side, and has three 12-inch-square vents on the roof's south side. There are four soffit vents on the house's north and south sides. During the winter, frost collects on the attic side of the roof deck and on the rafters. The frost melts and drips on the insulation and seeps through the ceiling. What can I do to reduce the attic moisture in the winter?

**A:** Your problem is typical of an attic in the northern states that has excessive moisture buildup and inadequate ventilation. The unobstructed attic ventilation should be 1-300th of the attic floor area.

Based on your data, the vent openings are about 20 percent less

than the recommended amount. If there are insect screens covering the vent openings, then the percentage is even more. Insect screens reduce the effective opening by about 40 percent.

To increase moisture reduction, the roof deck between the rafters should be "washed" with cool dry air. This can be achieved with continuous ridge and soffit vents. If these vents cannot be installed, then you must use additional roof and soffit vents. Frost tends to develop on the roof's north slope, there are no vents presently located there, so install the vents on the north side.

Also, moisture can migrate into the attic through wall cavities because water can collect in the basement or crawl space after a rain. Keep those areas dry.

**Q:** The plans I have for building a year-round doghouse state that low-radiant heat can be used during the cold winter months. Just what is low-radiant heat and where can I get the parts needed to install it?

**A:** This type of heat radiates directly to objects so it does not have to heat the air around them to have a warming effect. Low-radiant heat is usually supplied by electric cables embedded in floors or ceilings. To protect the cables from damage by the animals, lay them in a bed of sand over polyurethane insulation and a vapor barrier followed by a minimum of 3 inches of concrete. Some low-radiant heating cables can be laid directly in the concrete, but

insulation is still required to keep bottom heat loss to a minimum. Use Styrofoam panels for this purpose. Protect all wiring in metal conduit so your dog can't chew it.

**Q:** We are trying to tighten up our home for the winter and are tracking down and eliminating sources of drafts. The doors and windows were no problem, but we noticed a bad draft coming from our clothes dryer vent. What's the best way to handle this situation?

**A:** An open dryer vent leading to the outside of the house can be a significant source of drafts in winter and windy weather. If you're an electric dryer, check with a heating expert about the possibility of connecting the dryer vent to the furnace return duct, thus saving the heat generated by the dryer which is otherwise wasted out the vent. Do not vent the dryer directly into the laundry area, as dryer air is damp and you risk an indoor condensation problem. Gas dryers should remain vented to the outdoors.

To seal off the dryer vent permanently or for occasional use, merely disconnect the flexible dryer exhaust

pipe. The venting should be done by a straightedge did break out the vent pipe. A: The venting should be done by a straightedge did break out the vent pipe. A: The venting should be done by a straightedge did break out the vent pipe.

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# 'Tis the season to be safe with holiday decorating

## Operation Decoration emphasizes safe holiday decorating

UNDERWRITERS LABORATORIES INC.

NORTHBROOK, Ill. — Decking the halls with boughs of holly may have been a popular means of decorating for holidays of years past, but flashing bulbs, illuminated icicles, even animated figurines on lawns and rooftops are a far more common sight today.

While there's no denying their beauty, electrical decorations such as light strings, animated ornaments and figures should be used and displayed with the utmost care.

According to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), an average of 5,000 people make emergency room visits each holiday season due to electrical decoration mishaps. To address this alarming trend, Underwriters Laboratories Inc. (UL), an independent, not-for-profit product safety testing and certification organization, is teaming up with the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), a private, nonprofit fire safety advocate group, to sponsor Operation Decoration, a public awareness campaign aimed at helping to promote holiday decorating safety.

Always working for a safer world, the safety professionals at UL and the NFPA offer the following tips and precautions when decorating your home this holiday season:

■ If purchasing live, cut trees or greens, carefully inspect the needles. If they're brown or break easily, the greenery isn't fresh and poses a greater fire risk. When you take your tree home, put it in a sturdy, non-tip stand and keep it filled with water.

■ If your family prefers decorating with artificial trees or greens, purchase those that are flame-retardant. The product packaging will indicate if the branches of your artificial tree or greens have been treated with flame-retardant material. Remember that light strings and other electrical decorations should not be used on artificial trees or greens that have metallic needles, leaves or branch coverings.

■ Place your tree or greens at least three feet away from fireplaces, radiators and other heat sources. Also make sure not to block a doorway or other exit route.

■ Use light strings and animated or electrical decorations that bear the UL Mark. The UL Mark on a product means that UL engineers have tested representative samples of the product for foreseeable safety hazards such as fire and electric shock.

■ Electrical light strings and decorations such as candelights and illuminated ornaments that have been tested by UL bear holographic labels — easily identified by their silver base and UL Marks that appear to "float" in the background. Holographic labels for light strings designed for indoor use only bear green UL listing marks, and light strings for both indoor and/or outdoor use are identified by red UL marks.

■ Before you begin decorating, your first step should be to follow the manufacturer's instructions concerning installation and maintenance of the electrical decorations you'll be using.

■ Before plugging in newly purchased or previously used electrical decorations, carefully inspect each decoration. Cracked sockets, frayed or bare wires, and loose connections may cause a serious electric shock or start a fire. Replace damaged items with new, UL listed decorations.

■ Always unplug a light string or electrical decoration before replacing light bulbs or fuses.

Check the instructions to determine which maintenance the manufacturer recommends you perform. In most cases, maintenance is limited to fuse and lamp replacement only. Don't attempt to make a repair unless the instructions indicate the proper procedure and equipment for doing so. Decorations may overheat or safety mechanisms may not operate properly if you use replacement parts other than those specified by the manufacturer.

■ Don't mount or support light strings in any way that might damage the cord's wire insulation.

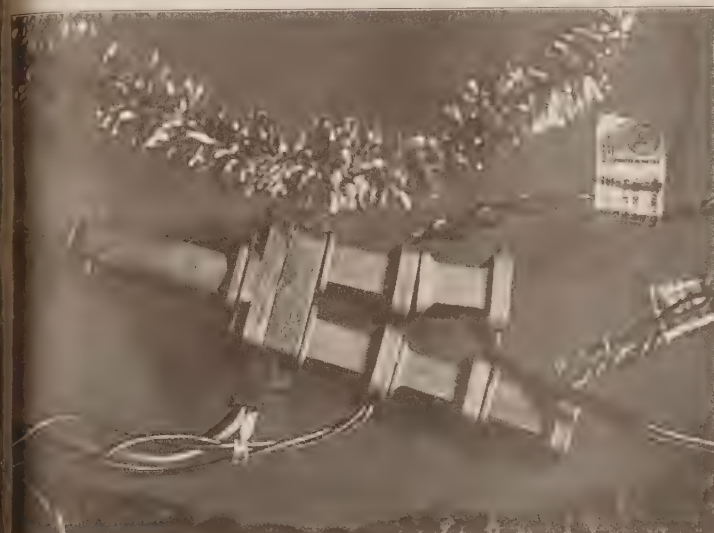
■ Check the markings on your electrical decorations to determine the maximum number of decorative



BEFORE PLUGGING IN new or used electrical decorations, carefully inspect each one. Cracked sockets, frayed or bare wiring and loose connections may cause electric shock or start a fire.

light strings that may be connected.

If the product packaging does not indicate the number of light strings that may be connected together, practice this rule of thumb: Do not connect more than three midjet (push-in bulbs) light string sets together.



DON'T OVERLOAD EXTENSION CORDS — it could cause the cord to overheat and start a fire. Make sure to check the markings on your lights to determine the maximum number of light strings they may be connected together.

## Door

FROM PAGE B1

strip of wood as a clamping pad to distribute the pressure evenly, and cover the veneer with a piece of clear plastic sheeting to prevent the wood strip from becoming glued to the door.

When the glue has dried, remove the clamp and apply a coat of latex patcher. The latex patcher

shrinks a bit when it dries so you may need to repeat this process once or twice to achieve a level surface. Avoid spreading the patcher beyond the repaired area. When the latex patcher is dry, sand with fine sandpaper.

Use a sanding block to ensure that the surface stays flat. Check the job for smoothness by gently sliding your hand across the surface.

If the door was originally stained and varnished, buy a stain that matches the original color. If you

have a scrap piece of the veneer, bring it to the store to help make an accurate color match. Apply the stain and wipe it with a soft cloth to blend it with the existing finish. After the stain has dried, apply a finish coat of varnish to the area.

To submit a question, write to Popular Mechanics, Reader Service Bureau, 224 W. 57th St., New York, NY 10019. The most interesting questions will be answered in a future column.

## Warmest Wishes for the Holidays

*I wish to thank my family, clients and friends for honored friendships and treasured relationships. May all the gentle joys of this season bring you warmth and sunshine now and throughout the New Year.*



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Casterline Road	\$625,000	\$806,000
Castlepark Way	\$749,000	\$855,000
Colton Boulevard	\$449,000	\$620,000
Doran Drive	\$449,000	\$560,000



# Boomers spend billions on remodeling

By Alan J. Heavens  
KNIGHT RIDDER NEWSPAPERS

Remodeling is much bigger than anyone outside the remodeling industry ever assumed it was. Including the Census Bureau, which had been underreporting the annual value of remodeling activity for at least 16 years.

According to newly revised figures, remodeling expenditures totaled \$142.9 billion last year, about 10 percent higher than originally reported by the Census Bureau.

That figure was twice the revised Census Bureau figure for 1984, and \$30 billion higher than the spending reported 10 years ago.

The Census Bureau is not totally to blame for the low numbers. Part of the blame lies with the nature of the remodeling industry.

According to Kermit Baker, senior research fellow at the Joint Center for Housing Studies at Harvard University, the remodeling industry's problem is fragmentation.

Of the 880,000 businesses that can be considered involved in remodeling, 550,000 are single contractors with no payroll.

About 40 percent of those 550,000 had gross receipts of less than \$100,000, Baker said. More than half of the firms that were around in 1987 were out of business in 1992.

"Excessive competition makes it difficult for smaller firms to stay in business," Baker said.

Both Baker, who was instrumental in persuading the Census Bureau to change its methodology, and the National Association of Home Builders believe that, as baby boomers age, the dollar value of remodeling will far outstrip that of new-home construction.

Bob Mitchell, NAHB president, said remodelers have been barely able to meet the demand for their services in recent years.

"Many of our members are barely keeping up with the rush of homeowners over the last several years wanting to convert some of their equity into additional living space and new amenities for their homes," he said.

According to Baker, most owners of older houses still undertake a variety of remodeling projects, either by themselves or with some help from professionals.

What these homeowners are doing, he said, is trying to add the amenities that will provide them with housing comparable to that being built today.

Many of these homes being remodeled are the ranchers from the 1950s to the 1980s that owners would like to resemble newer models.

"Homes have gotten larger," said Gopal Ahluwalia, NAHB's director of research. "It has been a constant and consistent evolution" since 1980, when the typical house was just 1,800 square feet.

Right now, the square footage of the average new house is up to 2,200, he said.

Lifestyle determines home size and amenities, not family size, which is getting smaller as houses get bigger. So the amount spent on remodeling older houses grows as a result.

About 40 million homeowners accounted for the money spent on remodeling projects last year.

Ahluwalia and Baker expect remodeling expenditures to increase steadily as existing houses age, as Americans stay put longer, and as the number of housing starts declines.

Already, 78 percent of the remodeling in the United States is being done by professionals, according to Susan Maney, a spokeswoman for the National Association of the Remodeling Industry in Alexandria, Va.

The average professional remodeler is 45 years old. About 88 percent of remodelers are male, and one-third have attended college or a trade school. More than one-third have more than 20 years of experience.

Other dynamics favor remodeling. If houses are appreciating at or below the rate of inflation, the homeowner cannot accumulate the equity necessary to buy a bigger house to meet growing needs.

Another dynamic is the aging of the population. As the baby-boom generation grows older and begins to retire, mobility rates will decline, according to Mark Zandi, chief economist for Economy.com in West Chester, Pa.

Look at the mobility rates recorded in the 1960 and 1990 censuses. The proportion of owners living in their homes for more than 20 years increased in all regions of the country, from a national average of 18 percent in 1960 to 26 percent in 1990.

The slowdown in the percentage of people moving was most dramatic in the Northeast, where the proportion of owners living in their homes



**AS BABY BOOMERS AGE**, the dollar value of remodeling will far outstrip that of new-home construction. About 40 million homeowners accounted for the money spent on remodeling projects, which totaled \$142.9 billion last year.

for more than 20 years jumped to 34 percent from 22 percent over those three decades.

Joan McCloskey, executive building editor of Better Homes and Gardens magazine, said people who remodel their houses simply don't want to move.

"Remodelers love their neighborhood, their school system, their local church and grocery store," she said. "However, they also love many of the trends they see in new houses today, such as walk-in closets, high ceilings and window walls."

Homeowners tend to remodel within 18 months to three years of the date they buy the house, Maney said. So what are homeowners spending their money on?

According to the home builders' group, about 30 percent of last year's \$142.9 billion went to maintenance and repairs, while 29 percent of the money was spent on alterations. Additions accounted for 11 percent, major replacements for 20 percent, and outside additions and alterations — garages, porches — for 10 percent.

According to American Express, which compiles a retail index annually on home-improvement trends, the most frequently cited reason for

making exterior and interior changes is "changes in personal taste."

Other major factors, according to Brad Thompson, a vice president of American Express, include mandatory maintenance, increasing resale value, the need for more space, and emergency repairs.

Trying to enhance resale value often finds homeowners spending too much money on projects that don't quite bring the financial return they expected.

Each year, Remodeling magazine and Realtor magazine produce the "Cost vs. Value" report, focusing on typical remodeling projects and what percentage of the cost of those projects will be recouped when the house is sold after a certain period.

The 1999-2000 report, for example, listed estimated construction costs of a "minor" kitchen remodel of \$8,655 with a return of 81 percent, or \$7,041, nationally.

For a bathroom remodel, according to Remodeling's Jim Cory, sellers will typically recoup 72 percent of a \$13,918 investment, or about \$10,000, when they sell the home.

Cory said the return on investment would be higher in hotter housing markets, such as San Francisco

or Minneapolis.

According to American Express' Thompson, consumers spent an average of \$3,000 on home renovation last year.

But if money were no object, project choices would include: a room addition; building a porch or deck; completely rebuilding the house; putting on a new roof, and installing a swimming pool.

About 51 percent would leave the work to a contractor if cost were no concern, Thompson said. However, one-third would still complete plans on their own.

According to Maney, the remodelers' association has identified some common mistakes consumers make when they remodel. These include hiring the wrong contractor, selecting inferior products to save money, overextending on a do-it-yourself project, improper planning, not taking all choices into consideration, starting the project at the wrong time, not managing your budget, and

overimproving for the neighborhood. Another mistake is "the domino effect." You install a new kitchen, for instance, then decide that the living room looks shabby, and so on, until you break the budget.

Whatever project you decide to undertake, remember that success in construction depends on balance and knowledge. Peter Hollander, of Criterion Engineers in Portland, Ore., said:

"Master your budget. It's the domino effect. You install a new kitchen, for instance, then decide that the living room looks shabby, and so on, until you break the budget."

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Bebe McRae, ext. 145 .....\$1,700,000



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Ron Eggerman, ext. 127 .....\$875,000

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**7 EMBARCADERO WEST #307 DELUXE "PORTOBELLO" CONDOMINIUM**  
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## WEEKLY SALES

## ALAMEDA

1021 Azalea Dr - \$345,000  
3011 Central Av - \$422,000  
347 Creedon Cr - \$725,000  
10818 Fair Oaks Av - \$475,000  
2006 Santa Clara Av - \$410,000  
2015 Santa Clara Av - \$400,000  
160 Sweet Rd - \$875,000

## ALBANY

733 Key Route Bl - \$470,500  
825 Key Route Bl - \$510,000  
535 Pierce St #131 - \$320,000  
535 Pierce St #231 - \$320,000

## BERKELEY

2832 8th St - \$265,000  
2751 Acton St - \$380,000  
3071 Buena Vista Wy - \$675,000  
1303 Carrington St - \$265,000  
3009 Ellis St - \$680,000  
1122 Francisco St - \$240,000  
708 Grizzly Peak Bl - \$550,000  
1312 Henry St - \$342,000  
1020 Jones St - \$310,000  
1580 Le Roy Av - \$395,000  
1157 Oxford St - \$745,000  
2326 Roosevelt Av - \$460,000  
1647 Santa Fe Av - \$470,000

## CERRITO

2719 Arlington Bl - \$360,000  
734 Ashbury Av - \$342,000  
753 Ashbury Av - \$320,000  
5416 Barrett Av - \$226,000  
2212 Cabrillo St - \$410,000  
210 Carmel Av - \$450,000  
219 Colusa Av - \$436,500  
7040 Eureka St - \$340,000  
1812 Everett St - \$343,000  
818 Liberty St - \$303,000  
1433 Norvell St - \$368,000  
136 San Carlos Av - \$405,000  
226 San Carlos Av - \$345,000  
2687 Tamalpais Av - \$430,000

## EL SOBRANTE

635 Chabre Cr - \$200,000  
8132 Hilltop Dr - \$210,000  
442 Kelvin Rd - \$205,000  
157 Manor Rd - \$280,000  
4510 S. Pablo Dam Rd - \$291,000  
809 Santa Maria Rd - \$215,000

## KENSINGTON

729 Coventry Rd - \$465,000

## OAKLAND

1108 11th Av - \$205,000  
1827 11th St - \$148,500  
2045 23rd Av - \$205,000  
723 27th St - \$110,500  
673 28th St - \$139,500  
864 31st St - \$215,000  
3780 39th Av #K - \$210,000

476 41st St - \$400,000  
1305 54th Av - \$160,000  
405 60th St - \$385,000  
678 61st St - \$320,000  
1174 63rd St - \$325,000  
591 63rd St - \$385,000  
2430 68th Av - \$170,000  
1901 70th Av - \$163,000  
1192 71st Av - \$234,000  
1011 73rd Av - \$175,000  
2531 75th Av - \$188,000  
2425 77th Av - \$140,000  
2285 83rd Av - \$195,000  
1748 92nd Av - \$164,000  
1604 94th Av - \$165,000  
1134 98th Av - \$129,000  
5950 Almaden Ln - \$425,500  
5211 Bancroft Av - \$179,500  
4301 Brookdale Av - \$168,000  
5440 Brookdale Av - \$275,000  
25 Cabrillo Pl - \$500,000  
260 Caldecott Ln #106 - \$245,000  
200 Caldecott Ln #108 - \$345,000  
1808 Caldecott Ln #302 - \$370,000  
1525 Campbell St - \$99,500  
26 Cathy Ln - \$1,199,000  
3485 Crane Wy - \$423,000  
5031 Crystal Ridge Ct - \$580,000  
9005 D St - \$90,000  
4511 Davenport Av - \$505,000  
3693 Delmont Av - \$265,000  
3950 Delmont Av - \$266,000  
4228 Dunsmuir Av - \$500,000  
518 East 15th St - \$249,000  
2119 East 22nd St - \$137,500  
1311 East 27th St - \$120,000  
2818 East 7th St - \$125,000  
6617 Forestland Wy - \$625,000  
2111 Harrington Av - \$201,000  
2560 Harrison St #306 - \$70,000  
2789 High St - \$202,000  
458 Hudson St - \$610,000  
2556 Humboldt Av - \$200,000  
710 Jefferson St - \$130,000  
2700 Kingsland Av - \$237,000  
771 Kingston Av - \$105,000  
19 Leamont Ct - \$350,000  
3618 Loma Vista Av - \$245,000  
2700 Madeline St - \$370,000  
4427 Masterson St - \$225,000  
3115 Maxwell Av - \$210,000  
853 McElroy St - \$110,000  
10900 McIntyre St - \$190,000  
10909 Monan St - \$450,000  
3274 Nicol Av - \$145,000  
6649 Oakwood Dr - \$575,000  
6780 Oakwood Dr - \$815,000  
407 Orange St #410 - \$187,500  
3544 Pierson St - \$300,000  
8415 Plymouth St - \$175,000  
4115 Randolph Av - \$435,000  
3458 Richmond Bl - \$191,000  
7528 Ruddale St - \$148,000  
4047 Rusting Av - \$338,000  
6280 Rutland Rd - \$860,000  
1767 Sausal St - \$276,000  
3640 Shone Av - \$264,500  
6774 Sims Dr - \$610,000  
115 Sonia St - \$743,000

6183 Swainland Rd - \$860,000  
24 Town Square Pl - \$220,000  
650 Trestle Glen Rd - \$850,000  
550 Vernon St - \$815,000  
605 Vernon St - \$410,000  
1807 Vicksburg Av - \$125,000  
723 Walavista Av - \$529,000  
507 Wickson Av - \$209,500  
811 York St #115 - \$289,000

## PIEDMONT

594 Blair Av - \$790,000

## RICHMOND

557 17th St - \$105,000  
121 1st St - \$80,000  
320 29th St - \$220,000  
725 32nd St - \$175,000  
401 33rd St - \$370,000  
1186 34th St - \$75,000  
2563 Barrett Av - \$375,000  
2700 Barrett Av - \$225,000  
3101 Birmingham Dr - \$290,000  
3119 Birmingham Dr - \$275,000  
209 Bissell Av - \$149,000  
1104 Brookside Av - \$226,000  
2524 Carlson Bl - \$171,000  
964 Carlson Bl - \$155,500  
1914 Chanslor Av - \$196,000  
1422 Coalgaing Av - \$183,000  
1416 Filbert St - \$148,000  
5402 Glenwood Ct - \$438,000  
4409 Jenkins Wy - \$135,000  
3081 Keith Dr - \$289,000  
160 Marina Wy - \$112,500  
2900 McBryde Av - \$211,000  
4346 Nelson Dr - \$220,000  
3823 Nevlin Av - \$175,000  
2629 Ohio Av - \$126,000  
3358 Parkgate Ct - \$338,000  
1024 Pennsylvania Av - \$145,000  
6115 Ralston Av - \$254,000  
2323 Roosevelt Av - \$235,000  
5801 Santa Cruz Av - \$375,000  
2753 Sheldon Dr - \$262,000  
671 Sonoma St - \$275,000  
342 South 7th St - \$101,000  
325 South 8th St - \$131,500  
6101 Tehama Av - \$230,000  
609 Thomas Dr - \$147,000  
3746 Via Verdi #4 - \$155,000  
3756 Via Verdi - \$148,000  
241 Willard Av - \$135,000

## SAN LEANDRO

1532 136th Av - \$290,000  
1577 163rd Av - \$200,000  
229 Begier Av - \$320,000  
210 Bradhoff Av - \$320,000  
432 Bradrick Dr - \$316,000  
2410 Cady Ct - \$142,000  
398 Caliente Dr - \$190,000  
230 California Av - \$180,000  
943 Castro St - \$200,000  
1963 Clarke St - \$240,000  
14416 Colgate St - \$350,000  
15330 Dewey St - \$250,000  
730 Dutton Av - \$440,000

408 East 14th St - \$250,000  
1480 East Thrush Av - \$170,000  
16770 Ehle St - \$275,000  
1290 Esser Av - \$280,000  
714 Fountainhead Dr - \$409,000  
1003 Frederick Rd - \$200,000  
1276 Gabriel Ct - \$315,000  
1624 Graff Ct - \$470,000  
14540 Hemlock St - \$266,000  
15057 Hesperian Bl #9 - \$176,000  
391 Leo Av - \$230,000  
16801 Los Reyes Av - \$266,000  
949 Melcher St - \$248,000  
3934 Monterey Bl - \$360,000  
15176 Norton St - \$247,500  
1262 Oberlin Av - \$345,000  
922 Rodney Dr - \$530,000  
16586 Rolando Av - \$202,000  
2158 San Remo Ct - \$360,000  
16385 Saratoga St #303 - \$230,000  
1318 Sayre St - \$310,000  
1738 Skyview Dr - \$1,000,000  
16592 Toledo St - \$252,000  
598 Warwick Av - \$310,000  
755 Woodgate Ct - \$220,000  
806 Woodgate Dr - \$232,500

## SAN LORENZO

15359 Dermody Av - \$269,000  
15598 Vassar Av - \$280,000  
648 Via Aires - \$275,000  
720 Via Aires - \$310,000  
1809 Via Amigos - \$310,000  
15936 Via Cordoba - \$285,000  
15918 Via Descanso - \$225,000  
1694 Via Helena - \$350,000  
1555 Via Hermana - \$375,000  
147 Via Linares - \$279,000  
1467 Via Manzanas - \$290,000

## BY THE NUMBERS

TOTAL SALES: 7  
LOWEST PRICE: \$345,000

HIGHEST PRICE: \$875,000  
MEDIAN PRICE: \$422,000  
AVERAGE PRICE: \$521,714

## ALBANY

TOTAL SALES: 4  
LOWEST PRICE: \$320,000  
HIGHEST PRICE: \$510,000  
AVERAGE PRICE: \$405,125

## BERKELEY

TOTAL SALES: 13  
LOWEST PRICE: \$240,000  
HIGHEST PRICE: \$745,000  
MEDIAN PRICE: \$395,000  
AVERAGE PRICE: \$444,385

## CERRITO

TOTAL SALES: 14  
LOWEST PRICE: \$226,000  
HIGHEST PRICE: \$450,000  
AVERAGE PRICE: \$362,750

## EL SOBRANTE

TOTAL SALES: 6  
LOWEST PRICE: \$200,000  
HIGHEST PRICE: \$291,000  
AVERAGE PRICE: \$233,500

## KENSINGTON

TOTAL SALES: 1  
PRICE: \$465,000

## OAKLAND

TOTAL SALES: 85  
LOWEST PRICE: \$70,000  
HIGHEST PRICE: \$1,199,000  
MEDIAN PRICE: \$234,000  
AVERAGE PRICE: \$316,459

TOTAL SALES: 1  
PRICE: \$790,000

## RICHMOND

TOTAL SALES: 39  
LOWEST PRICE: \$75,000  
HIGHEST PRICE: \$438,000  
MEDIAN PRICE: \$183,000  
AVERAGE PRICE: \$206,577

## SAN LEANDRO

TOTAL SALES: 39  
LOWEST PRICE: \$142,000  
HIGHEST PRICE: \$1,000,000  
MEDIAN PRICE: \$266,000  
AVERAGE PRICE: \$297,231

## SAN LORENZO

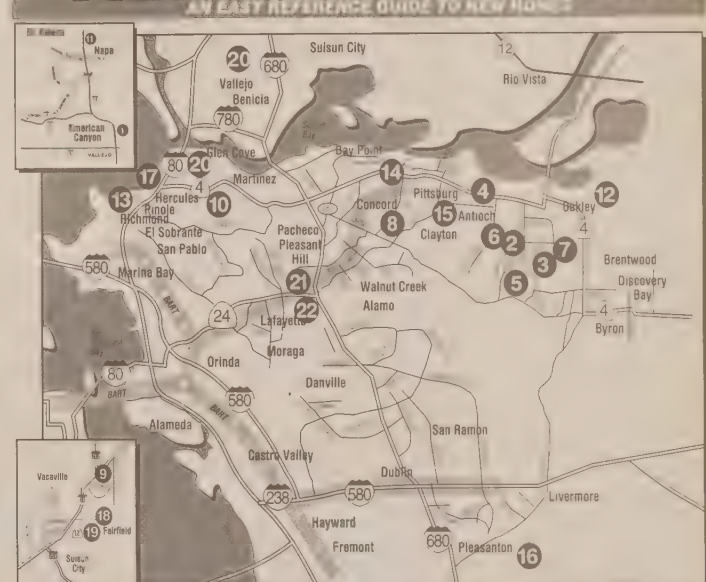
TOTAL SALES: 11  
LOWEST PRICE: \$225,000  
HIGHEST PRICE: \$375,000  
MEDIAN PRICE: \$285,000  
AVERAGE PRICE: \$295,273

This list was compiled for publication in Hills Newspapers by TitleTech of Oakland which obtains weekly records from the county recorder's office.

Neither company guarantees accuracy or completeness of the information. Sales prices are estimated based upon applicable county transfer taxes.

All questions regarding this information and any requests for additional listings and services provided by TitleTech should be directed to Bud Gorham at 510-568-7233 or TitleNotes@aol.com.

## New Communities



## AMERICAN CANYON

**1 La Siena at Montevino**  
From high \$300,000's. Spacious homes w/step to 4BR & 3000+ sq ft. Grt views & custom ops. Gateway to wine country near Six Flags Marine World. Signage to La Siena waterfront. Open Tues-Sun 10-5. closed Mon. Close to Carquinez Br & I-80  
Richmond American Homes 707-842-2399. www.richmondamerican.com

## ANTIOCH

**2 Huntington Park**  
Now Open! From low \$200,000's. 3-5BR detached homes from 1780-2185 sq ft. feature a contemporary new spin on classic craftsman architecture. Lone Tree to Golf Course. Open 11-5. 925-755-4958. www.richlandinfo.com

**3 Meadow Creek Village**  
From the mid \$200,000's. New neighborhood of estate style homes up to 6500 sq ft. 4-6BR. 2 & 3 car garages. Near shopping, schools & parks. Hillcrest to Lone Tree 925-755-9270. www.seenohomes.com

**4 Provance at Laurel Ridge**  
From high \$300,000's. NOW SELLING! Luxury living in E. County. Exciting new sing. fam. neighborhood w/ home designs to 3821 sq ft. 6BR, 4BA. Grt commute loc. Hwy 4 east exit at Lone Tree Way. Deer Valley, rt. Pinewet Ranch, rt. Manigault Open Wed-Sat 10-5. Mon 3-5. 925-779-3437. www.richmondamerican.com

**5 Terrazza at Laurel Ridge**  
From low \$300,000's. NOW SELLING! Luxury living at its most affordable! Exciting new single-family neighborhood w/ home designs to 3411 sq ft. 7BR, 4BA. Great commute loc. Open daily 10-5. Mon 3-5. Hwy 4 east exit at Lone Tree Way to Deer Valley Rd. to Pinewet Ranch to Manigault. 925-778-5307. www.richmondamerican.com

**6 Tourelle**  
From low \$300,000's. New Release! Richland's 4-6BR/3-4 car gar., 1, 2 stories. 2715-3935 sq ft. 10,000+ sq ft. lot. Dramatic entries. Lone Tree/Golf Course Rd. 11-5. 925-705-8883 or www.richlandinfo.com

## BRENTWOOD

**7 California Orchard**  
Open for info. Choose from 9 floor plans with 2152-3733 sq ft. Call 925-240-7771 to get on the interest list

## CONCORD

**8 Crystall Ranch**  
From upper \$500,000's. New Release! Luxury, rolling hills, 4 spec. floor plans, 2400-3400 sq ft. elegant int. custom ops. Ygnacio Vly/rt on Pine Hollow/Rolling Woods Way 925-687-3222/www.legacyluxuryhomes.com

## FAIRFIELD

**9 Ridgeview at Paradise Valley**  
From mid \$300,000's. Models for Sale. Spacious homes up to 7BR. From I-80 exit N Texas St. rt. rt. Dickson Hill Rd. rt. Dover Ave. rt. Manuel Campos Pkwy. rt. Paradise Valley Dr. Open daily 10-5. Mon 3-5. Salvador Ave. rt. off Hwy 29. Richmond American Homes 707-255-1018. www.richmondamerican.com

## HERCULES

**10 Belleterre**  
From mid \$300,000's. 4BR, 3BA, 2/3 car gar. Opt. 5th BR, den. Steel/built/structured calling. Bay Views. EZ commutes. 180/San Pablo Ave./Hercules Ave./Tilton Way. Open daily 12-5. 510-741-9165. www.schulcrs.com

## SANTA

**11 The Vineyards at Venezia**  
From mid \$400,000's. Now Selling! Luxurious homes in heart of wine country. Home designs w/step to 5BR, 4BA, 3 car gar., 3400+ sq ft. Central commute loc. near quiet downtown. Open daily 10-5. Mon 3-5. Salvador Ave. rt. off Hwy 29. Richmond American Homes 707-255-1018. www.richmondamerican.com

## OAKLEY

**12 Marsh Creek**  
COMING SOON. Call to get on the interest list. 1-800-34-HOMES. Kaufman and Broad Homes.

## PINOLE

**13 Harbour Cove in Pinole**  
From high \$300,000's. Beautiful 4 & 5BR single family homes in quiet Pinole. Some homes with Bay Views 2000-2400 sq ft. Easy commute. Hwy 80 East to Pinole. Exit at Appian Way. Left on Appian Way to San Pablo Av. Left on San Pablo Av to Pinole Shores Dr. Right at Pinole Shores Dr. Open 10-5 daily. DKB Homes. Call (510) 964-0382

## PITTSBURGH

**14 Highlands Ranch**  
From high \$200,000's. Beautifully designed, 1134-3543 sq ft. 3-5BR, 283 car gar. opt. incl. dens. tolls media cabing system. Near shopping, schools & freeway access. Loc. off Buchanan Rd. bet. Lowridge & Somersville. (925) 433-9070. Seeno homes. www.seenohomes.com

**15 Monterra, Oak Crest**  
From low \$300,000's. New release of water view rctd 3 plans. 4-5BR, 2100-2500 sq ft. 3 car gar. great opns inc second mstr. (BR, den, mstr retreats, liv. frms, walk to BART. Hwy 4 to Bailey Rd so. rt on Leland. rt on Southwood 925-709-1037. www.seenohomes.com

## PLEASANTON

**16 Rose Avenue Estates**  
COMING SOON! Richmond American Homes new executive home community w/3 distinctive flr plans ranging from approx. 2908 to 3811 sq ft. 3-6BR, 2-4 car gar., many customizing opns. Great commute loc. w/ smart town charm. 888-420-2700. www.richmondamerican.com

## RICHMOND

**17 Canyon Oaks**  
Now Taking Reservations. Beautiful new homes in gorgeous hillside setting by Richmond American Homes 3 floor plans ranging in size from approx. 2000 to over 2500 sq ft. w/ 4BR, 3BA. Great commute loc. off I-80. 888-420-2700

## VALLEJO

**18 Countryrise**  
From the low \$200,000's. Stylish 3 & 4 bedroom homes. Located in Gentry Meadows. Hwy 80 east and exit Alamo (South). Go 5 miles and left on Fallside. Open Saturday-Sunday 11 to 5 PM. Call 707-469-8363 for info.

## WESTGATE

**19 Westgate Estates**  
From mid \$300,000's. Estates sized homes up to 4300 sq ft. on 10,000 sq ft. min. lots. 4-7 BR, 3-car gar & opt bonus spaces. 180 to Alamo east. rt. on Peabody. rt. on Foxboro. Seeno Homes 707-454-0700. www.seenohomes.com

## VALLEJO

**20 Penny Ridge**  
From high \$200,000's. Choose from 3 floor plans, 3-5BR & 1739-2336 sq ft. Kaufman and Broad. Located off Redwood Pkwy/Penny in Vallejo. 707-553-9300

## WALNUT CREEK

**21 Buena Vista Terrace**  
From low \$500,000's. 3 & 4 BR homes near prized Walnut Creek schools, close to BART downtown, and I-680. 2343 San Juan Avenue at Parkside. 925-675-7714. Open Sat & Sun. 11-5. Delco Homes

## EAGLE RIDGE

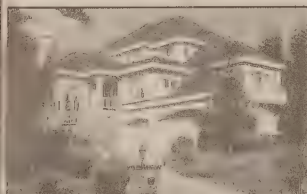
**22 Eagle Ridge at Rossmoor** - by Essex Homes for Active Adults  
From mid \$400,000's. Spacious patio homes & condos 1712-2284 sq ft. Luxurious interiors, valley & mountain views. Active adult resort living. N. 680, west on Olympic Blvd., so. on Tide Valley Blvd to Rossmoor. Open 10-5 daily 925-280-9701

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## ALAMO

## ALAMO



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## CREDIT WORTHY

News and information for and about the area real estate community and affiliated industries.

## Happy holidays, Merry Christmas Feliz Navidad Happy Hannukah

However you say it, however you choose to celebrate, the warmth and aroma of holiday recipes create traditions and memories. Here are a few tasty and fun recipes submitted by me and the local outgoing real estate organization presidents with the wish for making your holiday brighter.

## GRANDBABY SUGAR COOKIES

Submitted by Bobbie Reid (Ahma) and Wilson Peter (grandson).

- |               |                              |
|---------------|------------------------------|
| 1 grandchild  | 1 apron                      |
| 1 grandmother | 1 recipe for sugar cookies   |
| 1 stepstool   | 2 aspirins (for grandmother) |

## Directions:

- Use great-grandmother's sugar cookie recipe.
  - Position stepstool for grandchild to help.
  - Combine eggs and liquid. Pick out broken egg shells, mop up spilled liquid.
  - Tell grandchild not to eat egg shells.
  - Beat shortening and sugar. Help grandchild lick the beaters.
  - Combine dry ingredients. Clean up flour from the floor and table.
  - Combine all ingredients until dough forms a large ball. This will take two pairs of hands, one small and one large.
  - Find your rolling pin. It may be with the playdoh.
  - Help grandchild eat some cookie dough.
  - Roll out dough. Use cookie cutters to cut out shapes.
  - Find out it is more fun to use the dough to shape fat, squat animals than to make cookies.
  - With above tasks completed, child will need a nap.
  - Grandmother needs to clean kitchen — floors, table, counters, stove, bowls and utensils.
- Then take the two aspirins for aching back.

## DECK THE HALLS EASY COOKIES

Submitted by Judy Jacobs of Harbor Bay Realty, the 2000 president of the Alameda Association of Realtors.

- |                   |                        |
|-------------------|------------------------|
| ½ C sugar         | 3 C rice krispies      |
| ½ C karo syrup    | ½ C chocolate chips    |
| ½ C peanut butter | ½ C butterscotch chips |

Directions: Combine sugar & corn syrup. Heat to boiling. Stir. Remove from heat. Add peanut butter and stir. Add cereal and mix. Press into greased 9 inch pan. Melt chocolate and butterscotch chips, spread over mixture. Do not refrigerate. Recipe may be doubled.

## TOYLAND CINNAMON ORNAMENTS

Submitted by Anita Jones of Sessions Realty, the 1999 and 2000 president of Associated Real Property Brokers.

Directions: No baking and easy for children. Mix ¾ C applesauce with one 4.12 oz. bottle of ground cinnamon. Form a stiff dough. Roll dough out to ¼" thickness. Cut shapes with cookie cutters. Put hole in the top for ribbon hanger. Put on rack to dry for several days. Turn occasionally. Approximately one dozen ornaments.

## HOLLY JOLLY COOKIES

Submitted by Lois Kadosh of Bay Ridge Real Estate & Financial, the 2000 president of the Berkeley Association of Realtors.

- |                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| 1 C dates chopped | ½ C nuts chopped                       |
| ½ C water         | 1 roll refrigerator sugar cookie dough |
| ½ C sugar         | 2 T grated orange peel                 |

Directions: In a small saucepan combine dates, water and sugar. Cook over medium heat stirring constantly. When mixture thickens, remove from heat. Add nuts. Set aside. Slice cookie dough into 36 slices, ¼" thick. Place 27 slices on cookie sheets. Place 1 teaspoon of date/nut mixture on top of each. Cut remaining slices into thirds. Place each third on top of mixture. Sprinkle with orange peel. Bake at 350 for 10 to 12 minutes or until golden brown.

## RUDOLPH'S CRANBERRY PUNCH

Submitted by L.J. Jennings of Jetstream Mortgage, the 2000 President of the Oakland Association of Realtors.

- |                                |                  |
|--------------------------------|------------------|
| 2 pint bottles cranberry juice | 4 C cold water   |
| 2 small cans frozen lemonade   | 1 qt. ginger ale |

Directions: Combine all ingredients and serve in a punch bowl.

## WINTER WONDERLAND BUCKEYE CANDIES

Submitted by Denise Sonnier of California Home Loans, the 2000 President of the Women's Council of Realtors East Bay Chapter.

- |                            |                             |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 package powered sugar    | 1 large bag chocolate chips |
| ½ jar creamy peanut butter | 1 T paraffine               |
| 2 sticks butter (softened) | wooden toothpicks           |

Directions: blend together powered sugar, peanut butter and butter. Roll into balls and place on cookie sheet. Freeze for about 10 minutes or until firm. Melt chocolate and paraffine in a double boiler. Insert toothpick in ball and dip three quarters of the way into the chocolate. Refrigerate until ready to serve. Makes about four dozen.

Here's wishing you and yours a safe and happiest of holidays ever.

## WHAT'S UP DOC???

I need your information for this column. Fundraisers, promotions, designations, change of scenery (company). I want to know it all. Deadline is the Friday before pub date. Fax your info to me at 510-441-7191 or call me at 510-581-4080.

# Adaptive reuse in the Bay Area

## Part two of two parts

In last week's column, I discussed the increasing trend towards "adaptive reuse" of historic buildings in the Bay Area in recent years. I also described one of the latest and largest examples of adaptive reuse in the East Bay: the upgrading and restoration of Hobbit Hall, the building Julia Morgan designed in 1918 for the Baptist Seminary of the West, located at 2600 Dwight Way in Berkeley.

Now let's explore some of the other famous and successful examples of adaptive reuse in the Bay Area. One of the very first such projects in California was San Francisco's Ghirardelli Square.

This cluster of multistory brick commercial buildings was originally built as a complex of buildings for the Ghirardelli Chocolate Company in the early 1900s, with one circa 1860 structure, the "Woolen Mill", surviving from the Civil War.

By the early 1960s, the Ghirardelli Chocolate Company had outgrown its antiquated facilities, where some of the factory buildings still operated with belt-driven overhead machinery. Rather than abandon the site, however, the company's executives wisely decided to upgrade and remodel the original buildings.

The renowned Bay Area architectural firm of Wurster, Bernardi, and Emmons was hired to carry out this early adaptive reuse project. The work took from 1962 until 1967 to complete. The new complex included souvenir and gift shops, restaurants, boutiques and a fountain in the middle of a landscaped plaza. Today, Ghirardelli Square is one of San Francisco's most popular tourist attractions, and perhaps the most famous example of adaptive reuse in the Bay Area.

Nearby, at Leavenworth and Beach streets is another highly successful example of early adaptive reuse, The Cannery. Originally built circa 1909 as a complex of food canning factories, the Cannery underwent a complete renovation in 1968. The owners hired the highly respected local firm of Joseph Escherick and Associates for this project. Inspired by the popularity of Ghirardelli Square, the Cannery today houses various types of shops, restaurants, and clubs for live entertainment.

Across the Bay, the city with by far the best record of successful adaptive reuse projects is Oakland. It may surprise many people to learn that some of the most innovative large scale renovations of historic structures is the place that is so often described by uninformed outsiders as having "no there there." Oakland began to participate in the trend toward adaptive

reuse years before most other cities its size in California.

One of the first such projects in Oakland was the restoration and upgrading of the Art Deco landmark Paramount Theater, at 20th Street and Broadway. Originally built in 1931, this "Buck Rogers" fantasy of a movie palace was designed by the firm of Timothy Pflueger and J.R. Miller. By the early 1970s, it's 3,000 seat auditorium was an anachronism, because movie theaters were no longer drawing audiences of that size.

So the City of Oakland undertook an adaptive reuse project for the old Paramount, with partial funding from Kaiser and Bechtel corporations. The building was restored and adapted for use as the new home of the Oakland Symphony. The Chicago-based firm of Skidmore, Owings, and Merrill did the design work for the project. The Paramount is now used to host a wide variety of cultural and commercial events, from local high school graduations, to the Black Filmmakers Awards, to business conventions.

Two blocks up Broadway, at 22nd Street, stands another good example of a successful adaptive reuse project: the old John Breuninger Company Building. Albert F. Roller designed this Art Deco masterpiece in 1931 for the furniture making company. In the early 1980s, Lloyd's Bank of London completed a thorough renovation of the building, restoring the exterior while converting the interior for use as a multi-tenant office building.

On the south shore of Lake Merritt, at 1418 Lakeside Drive, stands one of the truly great Victorian mansions of the Bay Area: the Camron-Stanford House. This superb example of a Bracketed Italianate house was built in 1876 for the real estate developer William W. Camron. Over the next 40 years, it was lived in by five different families, including the elder brother of Stanford University founder Leland Stanford.

In 1907, the City of Oakland bought this mansion to house the headquarters for the newly formed Oakland Museum. When the museum moved to its brand new building several blocks away in 1968, the Camron-Stanford House sat empty for nearly eight years. Demolition threatened until a volunteer committee of East Bay citizens was organized to preserve and restore it.

When this uniquely grass roots adaptive reuse project was completed in 1976, the old mansion became a museum of Victorian life in Oakland, with authentic period furnishings in several of its rooms. Public tours of the house, and a video on the history of the building, are available for interested visitors.

One of the largest adaptive reuse and rehabilitation projects ever completed in the Bay Area is Oakland's Jack London Square and adjacent Old Produce Area. This multi-block district lies on either side of Broadway below 3rd Street, along Oakland's waterfront. It now contains a combination of restored and reused historic structures mingled with brand new, "Post Modern" commercial buildings that reflect the historic motifs of the older buildings.

Jack London Square was so named because the writer Jack London, Oakland's favorite son, spent much of his time here as a young man working on the docks, and gathering material for future novels. Two historic structures in the square itself, facing the waterfront have a direct connection to London's life.

Heinhold's First and Last Chance Saloon was built circa 1880, and was the last saloon in Oakland before crossing the estuary into the then "dry town" of Alameda. It was one of Jack London's favorite haunts. A few yards away is a genuine 1890s log cabin that was brought from the Klondike many years ago. The young writer lived in this cabin while he prospected for gold dur-

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Strong computer skills. Must know MS Word/Excel. Fax resume 925-947-4129

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# Holiday Wishes



**JAN MASON**

*Peace, Joy & Good Health!  
May every day be a Holiday.*

OMM, INC.  
2514 Santa Clara Ave  
522-8074

## From Your Local Realtors and Affiliates

**In appreciation of our association during the past year, we extend our best wishes for a Happy Holiday Season to everyone.**



**GRAZINA BIVINS**

*Special thanks to the many special people for a wonderful year.*

PRUDENTIAL CALIFORNIA REALTY  
342 Highland Ave., Piedmont  
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**DOLORES THOM**

*Warm Wishes for the Holidays and for the New Year!*

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**YEHUDA BEN-DAVID**

*Special thanks to the many special people for a wonderful year. I wish you and your family prosperity and joy in 2001 and beyond!*

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(510) 339-9290



**MARLENE LEVERETTE**

*Peace - Harmony in 2001*

TEMPLETON LEVERETTE COMPANY  
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(510) 652-2133 ex:121



**ALBERTA HUSTON**

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**ANNE VAN DYKE**

*Joy and Good Health in 2001!*

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**TRICIA SWIFT**

*Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!*

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**BEBE MCRAE**

*Joy to the World!*

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**SUSIE SCHEVILL**

*Best Wishes for a Joyous New Year!*

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(510) 652-2133 ex:144



**LESLIE AVANT**

*May the Joy of the Season remain with you throughout the New Year.*

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(510) 652-2133 ex:122



**KIM CLEGHORN**

*May the magic of the holidays be yours throughout the coming year!*

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(510) 531-7000 ex. 346



**FRANCESCA THORN**

*May the spirit of Christmas be your guide throughout the new year!*

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(510) 869-4704



**LESLIE EASTERDAY**

*'tis the season to give thanks. Happy Holidays!*

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**LINDA MCCLAIN**

*My very warm wishes this holiday season, with special thanks to my clients & friends.*

THE GRUBB COMPANY  
1960 Mountain Blvd., Oakland  
(510) 339-0400



**CAROL J MARTINO**

*Season's greetings and many thanks to my clients and friends.*

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**STAN & SHARON HAMMOND**

*Wishing you happy holidays and all the best in 2001!*

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(510) 531-7000 ex. 346



**MYRTICE LIN WONG**

*"Good times are even better when they're shared." I hope you will be surrounded by all those you love and who make you feel good during this season of sharing, caring and giving. Have a happy Holiday Season and may this carry on throughout the New Year.*

PRUDENTIAL CALIFORNIA REALTY  
2077 Mountain Blvd., Oakland, CA  
(510) 339-9290



**GEORGIA RICHARDSON**

*May the blessings of the Lord abound in your life this Holiday Season!*

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(510) 569-3499



**GLASS/SABINE**

*Heartfelt thanks and continued prosperity to all our clients.*

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**DIAN HYMER**

*Happy holidays & many thanks to my clients & friends.*

COLDWELL BANKER  
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**JULIE NACHTWEY**

*Home Sweet Holidays!*

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**TERE LEE**

*Peace, Joy & Good Health. Happy Holidays!*

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(510) 814-4840



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6137 LaSalle Ave., Oakland, Ca.  
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**LILLIE BRADY**

*I am grateful to you, my wonderful clients & wish you the best HOLIDAY ever. Thank you.*

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644-5262



**MARY CANAVAN**

*I wish you a happy holiday season and a wonderful 2001.*

THURNHILL PROPERTIES  
1656 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley  
(510) 848-1950



# SPORTS

JV

December 22, 2000

Section C

**Soccer** Huge prep soccer tourney coming to East Bay [C2]

**Arts** 'Cast Away' is a promise kept [C3]



**RON SALSIG**  
Range Rat

## Berrow — the spirit of giving

There is a Santa Claus. He's in Alameda.

This is a Christmas story that gets better each year. It is a story about a man who gave up, and found, what he was looking for all along.

Jerry Berrow found no meaning in his middle management life. So he left the corporate world and took a very low-profile job at a golf course. At least he was outdoors.

Berrow had hardly worked a year at the Chuck Corica Golf Complex in Alameda when he stumbled on his calling. He saw junior golfers struggling to find equipment, and that seriously furrowed his brow. Soon he was rummaging around garbage cans, finding old equipment — clubs, hats, gloves and the like. He cleaned it all up and gave this equipment to the juniors.

"The kids who play golf should never have to pay for equipment," Berrow states with the kind of enthusiasm that borders on indignation, even a little resentment.

Alameda has a strong junior golf tradition, from head pro Earl Fry and teaching pro Lucious Bateman, from the beginning. Green fees are one dollar for resident juniors, as it always has been. But equipment? That was another story.

Word got around that Berrow was taking old, used clubs and fixing them up for juniors. Clubs that had sat in the garage for ages were donated to his cause. Then the corporations began to find out, and they started donating new equipment. All was given freely to any junior golfer who asked at the Alameda Junior Pro Shop, housed in an old shipping container by the cart barn.

Berrow started a non-profit corporation, Junior Golf Resources. He started a web site, [juniorgolffresources.org](http://juniorgolffresources.org). Orders started coming in from all over the nation. Berrow sent clubs to Maine, Montana and Florida, no questions asked.

His idea was so simple, it grew from the garbage can to corporate America quickly.

Orlimar made a decision a couple of months ago to move its headquarters from Hayward to Carlsbad, near San Diego. They decided to donate a lot of clubs they did not feel like taking down south to Berrow, about 105 new clubs.

Berrow thanked Orlimar, and he asked if they knew where he might be able to get some grips, shafts or other components so he could fit these clubs to the kids. After all, a 45-inch shaft may be longer than the recipient is tall. In a few days Berrow had cartons of grips and other components, donated by Orlimar.

Somehow, one of Berrow's business cards found its way up to Vancouver, WA. A lady up there had a 9-year-old niece who loved golf but had not clubs. She called Berrow. Berrow asked how tall the niece was, how big her hands were, and made her a set of clubs — a full set, with bag, hat, windshirt, vest and glove. He put them on an Alaska Airlines flight to Portland and called the lady.

The lady was beside herself when she saw the package. She called Berrow from the airport and told him he was one of those people who were too good to believe. But the kicker was what Berrow found out in the process.

Alaska Airlines shipped the clubs for free. It seems a lady named Peggy McHenry found out about Berrow. And she happened to be a sales director for Alaska Airlines. She informed Berrow that Alaska had a plan for non-profit corporations like Berrow's.

And that might solve another problem. A lady from Castro Valley named Maria Baruta happened by the Junior Pro Shop one day this year. She told Berrow about her native country, Czechoslovakia, about a junior golf program starting there.

See SALSIG, Page C2

## Panthers blank Monarchs in BSAL opener

McConnell's two goals pace the Panthers

By Mike McGreehan  
STAFF WRITER

OAKLAND — Ideally, opening games are supposed to be festive affairs with an air of excitement and high hopes for the start of a successful season. St. Mary's High School's Bay Shore Athletic League soccer opener with host Holy Names on the AstroTurf at Fremont High School was nothing like that, though.

For the record, St. Mary's won 2-0. But the only atmosphere was the constant whizzing of traffic on High Street and Foothill Boulevard. Moreover, the match itself was as flat as soda with no fizz.

St. Mary's (1-0 BSAL, 4-3-1 overall) eventually settled into more of a groove than did the Monarchs (0-1, 1-2), who struggled throughout.

Perhaps the players — especially those from Holy Names — were tired. Academic demands often pile up before the Christmas break, and some of the Holy Names girls spoke openly on the sidelines of long hours spent studying for tests and preparing projects.

Still, this match would have needed a major overhaul to spice it up. Overall, the match lacked direction as both teams spent much of their time kicking the ball aimlessly about.

"They weren't passing the ball well," Holy Names coach Joe Taula said of his players. "I think they'd rather play on regular grass."

An AstroTurf soccer match moves faster than one played on grass. The ball picks up speed, and passes to the wings that players normally can run on to often go out of bounds on Monsanto's magic carpet.

"Normally, we've tried to work the ball to the outside on regular turf," said St. Mary's coach Luis Porras. "Here, we tried to adjust by using a soft touch."

That meant short, crisp passes that often did not materialize for either team. St. Mary's, though the visitor on what will be Holy Names' home field throughout the season, adjusted best to the field. Nicole Griffin and Kimberly McConnell

even adjusted well enough to play superbly on the wings. Overall, the Panthers in general seemed to come to appreciate AstroTurf soccer.

"The conditions at the other fields are not so great," said St. Mary's freshman Caroline Casey. "You can run a lot faster on this and the ball moves a lot faster."

McConnell scored both St. Mary's goals from the left wing. The first goal came in the 32nd minute after St. Mary's Becca Kawaichi took possession of a poorly-taken Holy Names goal kick. Kawaichi, standing about 35 yards up the field from the Holy Names goal, passed to McConnell on her left. After a short run at goal, McConnell slipped the ball by Monarchs' starting keeper Shani Provost for a 1-0 lead.

Provost, shaken up earlier in the first half after a collision with Griffin, stayed in the game until halftime. Sheila Baxter took over in goal for the Monarchs in the second half.

Baxter made some fine plays, including a diving save of a McConnell shot at 58 minutes. McConnell was unable to get her foot entirely behind that ball, but hit it squarely 30 seconds later when she scored her second goal off a feed from Griffin.

In terms of shots, St. Mary's finished with 10 to Holy Names' nine. But the match wasn't that close, as the Panthers dominated ball possession and created better shots.

As for Holy Names, Tracey Ross recorded her team's first shot when she took advantage of a small opening between defenders to send a ball wide 15 minutes into the contest.

Ross threatened again immediately off the second-half kickoff. In this instance, she made a long run toward goal but could not produce a shot.

St. Mary's keeper Ashley Frazier saved a well-placed free kick from Holy Names freshman sweeper Melanie Matzorkis in the 63rd minute. Matzorkis also blasted a free kick into a St. Mary's wall at 78 minutes.

St. Mary's best late chance came at 75 minutes when Sophie Ewing sent a shot wide left.

Overall, both teams have some promising players. On this particular day,

### Prep girls' soccer

St. Mary's 2  
Holy Names 0



JANNA JANDORSTAFF

ST. MARY'S' BECCA KAWAICHI was a step ahead of Holy Names' Maiti Rodriguez during their Dec. 15 match at Fremont High School. The league opener for both clubs, the Panthers defeated the Monarchs 2-0.

though, they played a sleepy match that not even megadoses of coffee, chocolate and cola could have awakened.

No, this was decaffeinated soccer,

bland and lacking all the elements — energy, flair, excitement, spark, etc. — that can turn a match into a sporting spectacle.



KATHY BAKER/STAFF

BERKELEY'S LIAM REILLY (center) and Alameda's Matt McBride (#14) converged on the ball during their Dec. 14 match against Berkeley. Playing at Thompson Field, the Hornets edged the Yellowjackets 1-0.

## Berkeley comes up a goal short

Yellowjackets pour it on in rainy loss to Alameda

By Bill Kruissink  
SPORTS EDITOR

ALAMEDA — Most everyone agreed that Berkeley out-shot Alameda — maybe by as much as 15 or 16 to 1. But when the match was over, Alameda's

one goal stood tall.

Under siege for the best part of 80 minutes, the Hornets nonetheless pulled off a big ACCAL win, defeating the Yellowjackets 1-0 at Thompson Field. Playing in rainy, sloppy conditions, Jim Christoffersen's goal, scored 3 1/2 minutes into the second half, was the winning margin.

But Alameda's defense did the most

### Prep boys' soccer

Alameda 1  
Berkeley 0

damage simply by withstanding the Yellowjacket's near-constant barrage of shots. Just missing the cage with several shots, but also missing more than a few dead-on shots, Berkeley came up empty thanks in large part to the stalwart defense of keeper Colin Jackson.

"We just need to put the ball in the net a little more," Berkeley coach Janu Juarez said. "Their goalkeeper played a very good game. Colin Jackson saved the game."

See SOCCER, Page C2

## Lawson takes over for Shag

By Phil Jensen  
TIMES STAFF WRITER

St. Mary's High School has named Jay Lawson as its new varsity football coach and athletic director.

"I feel very excited about it," said Lawson, 37. "I've been dean of students for 10 years, and I wanted to move into athletics once Shag (Dan Shaughnessy) retired."

Lawson has been a member of the Panthers football coaching staff since

1986 and has also been the school's track and field coach since 1988. He replaces Shaughnessy, who was the head football coach for 16 straight seasons at the school and 37 total seasons at various high schools before announcing his retirement from St. Mary's on Nov. 11. Shaughnessy was also the St. Mary's athletic director for the past 16 years.

According to Lawson, Shaughnessy will remain the athletic director through this school year. Lawson is currently the assistant athletic director.

Lawson, a 1981 St. Mary's graduate, has coached defensive backs and wide receivers and directed the St. Mary's defense along with Steve Moore under Shaughnessy since 1986.

"Shag has taught me a lot about high school football coaching," Lawson said. "For the football team, I want to keep the

See LAWSON, Page C2



## Soccer

FROM PAGE C1

"We were lucky," Jackson said. "I was talking to one of the (Yellow-jackets) and he said they had 32 shots."

Of course, Jackson had plenty of help. Alameda's defensive team of sweeper Conor Patterson, backs Dustin Travis, Robbie Hild and stopper Matt McBride came up big, forcing the Yellowjackets to pull the trigger on shots before they were open. Showing a bit of frustration, Berkeley (5-4 overall, 3-1 in the ACCAL) often ripped shots from 20 to 25 yards out. But whether the Yellowjackets were shooting close in or firing from a distance, they just couldn't find the net.

Alameda (5-3, 3-1) had another ally: Thompson Field. The field was soaked through. Puddles in the middle were especially difficult to navigate around, but players spent a good deal of time slipping and falling both before and after shots — and this was especially true as the game wore on.

"It probably gave us the edge," Alameda coach Jack Cooley said. "They practice on AstroTurf and we practice on a lumpy, sometimes muddy field."

In the first half, William Vega, Liam Reilly and Vincente Bermejo all came up short, with Jackson either coming out of the box to stop their shots, or Alameda's defense forcing balls right, left and over the cage.

But as the two teams went to the sidelines at the half with the score still knotted 0-0, Berkeley was nevertheless optimistic. Juarez told his kids that just one goal would open



KATHY BAKER/STAFF

**ALAMEDA BACKFIELDER** Dustin Travis worked to keep the ball from Berkeley's Liam Reilly during their Dec. 14 match at Thompson Field.

the match up.

On the other side of the field, Cooley told his kids that one mistake might provide the difference.

"They made a mistake and we scored," Cooley said after the match.

Operating in heavy traffic minutes after the second half had begun, Alex Rosko delivered a pass to Christoffersen, who knocked in the game's only goal.

Still, the goal did not seem to rattle Berkeley. The Jackets kept coming until, with about 15 minutes to go, freshman forward Kamani Hill ripped what appeared to be the tying goal.

The referee, however, called off-sides on Berkeley and Alameda was out of trouble. It was a call that did not set well with Juarez.

"You saw that referee take a goal away from us," he said. "We kept working, but let's make one thing

perfectly clear: the referee took a goal away from us."

For all of that, the key to the match may have been found in Berkeley's perhaps being overly aggressive. By staying on the attack, the Yellowjackets kept the Hornets' defense compressed, making goals harder to come by.

"Sometimes you have to allow the other team out," Juarez said.

Whatever, Christoffersen's goal stood up and Alameda walked from the soggy field with a very big win.

"It's very clear who's the better team," Juarez said. "But the game, unfortunately, is like everything else: you have to put the ball in the net and that's the answer. We did once and the ref pulled it out."

Juarez added: "But we missed a lot of goals. It's like life: sometimes the best laid plans don't work out," he said.

## Refs cracking down on col

By Phil Jensen

TIMES STAFF WRITER

Sixty. Fifty-eight. Fifty-six. Those were the number of free throws attempted earlier this month during local prep basketball games.

A trickle-down effect has occurred from college basketball to prep basketball this season, as local officials are cracking down on physical play.

"There was a national consensus at the collegiate level to clean up and call tighter games," said Brian Hudes, president of the East Bay Basketball Officials Association. "There's a clear distinction between college and high school, but certain themes transcend all levels, such as sportsmanship and cleaning up fights."

Hudes said he was not aware of any trouble with fights in North Coast Section games, but the emphasis placed on calling blocks, charges and the space between an offensive and defensive player has to do with sportsmanship.

"When you allow players to bump, there is an escalating effect," he said. "If you clean up the first marginal contact, you eliminate the domino effect."

The emphasis in calling college games close this season has been documented in publications such as Sports Illustrated. But the trickle-down effect has varied locally.

Dave Cutaita, who assigns officials for the Contra Costa Basketball Officials Association, said that no major change has been made in the way his association calls games.

"The high school federation has always emphasized an emphasis on rough play," Cutaita said. "If there's contact and there's a foul, it probably would be called. Officials are being more cognizant about contact



PHIL JENSEN

Prep Scene

than in the past."

An adjustment has been made by some teams.

"They're calling displacement," said Berkeley girls coach Gene Nakamura. "If you use some technique which displaces a person, both offensively and defensively, they're going to call it."

Nakamura said that one of his players had six fouls by halftime in an early-season scrimmage.

"It was a good wake-up call," he said. "I'm glad they called it close. I have to play more zone. Nakamura noticed that the arm-bar technique, which is when a player puts an arm out at a 90-degree angle, is being called."

"A lot of times, you're using the arm-bar technique to protect yourself," he said. "It gives you protective space."

The St. Mary's boys basketball team had an average of 30 fouls in its first four games.

"We had some really good officiating in the Pittsburg game (last weekend)," said St. Mary's coach Jose Caraballo. "They called with the flow of the game. They didn't call every piece of contact. They were very consistent."

"Our biggest thing is, we're going to stay aggressive and have fouls called on us. Refs are going to get sick of blowing the whistles."

The Amador Valley girls team also had foul trouble in a recent game

Phil Jensen can be reached at 262-2739 or by email at philj@hillsnews.com.

## Huge prep soccer tourney coming to East Bay

By Scott Strain

STAFF WRITER

One of the biggest winter soccer tournaments, the 2000 Winter Soccer Classic will be held Dec. 27-29 at three high schools in the East Bay.

Twenty boys teams, including St. Mary's, Bishop O'Dowd, Alameda and Piedmont, will play at least three matches on the first two days of the tournaments. Newark Memorial, with its two fields, will play host to the most matches. The others will be held at Piedmont and at James Logan in Union City.

The teams are split into five groups. They are:

Black Group: St. Mary's, Mission San Jose, Bishop O'Dowd and De La Salle.

White Group: Piedmont, American, San Ramon Valley and Moreau Catholic.

Blue Group: Newark Memorial, Monte Vista, Hayward and Deer Valley.

Green Group: Irvington, Amador Valley, Castro Valley and Pittsburg.

Red Group: Alameda, James Logan, Livermore and Ygnacio Valley.

Each team will initially play everyone in the group. After group play, teams will be placed in either flight A, B, C, or D. The first-place teams will be placed into A flight. The top two teams (in terms of points) will play in the championship match, scheduled for Friday, Dec. 29 at 8 p.m. at

Newark Memorial.

The third and fourth-place teams (again, in terms of points) will play in the consolation final, scheduled for Dec. 29 at 6 p.m. at Newark Memorial. Groups B, C, and D will be ranked in the same manner.

Points are awarded as follows: 6 for a win, 3 for a tie, 1 for a shutout, 1 per goal (maximum of 4), minus 1 for each red card and 0 for a loss. Forfeits will go down as 2-0 for the winning team.

The schedule:

■ **Wednesday, Dec. 27**

10 a.m. — Mission San Jose vs. Bishop O'Dowd at Newark Memorial No. 2; Irvington vs. Castro Valley at NM1; St. Mary's vs. De La Salle at James Logan.

Noon — Hayward vs. Monte Vista at NM2; Deer Valley vs. Newark Memorial at NM1; Amador Valley vs. Pittsburg at JL.

2 p.m. — Alameda vs. Ygnacio Valley at NM2; Moreau Catholic vs. Piedmont at NM1; American vs. San Ramon Valley at JL.

4 p.m. — De La Salle vs. Mission San Jose at NM1; Bishop O'Dowd vs. St. Mary's at JL.

6 p.m. — Irvington vs. Amador Valley at NM1; Monte Vista vs. Deer Valley at JL.

8 p.m. — Newark Memorial vs. Hayward at NM1; James Logan vs. Livermore at JL.

■ **Thursday, Dec. 28**

10 a.m. — Castro Valley vs. Pittsburg at NM2; Ygnacio Valley vs. James Logan at JL; American vs. Moreau Catholic at Piedmont.

Noon — Alameda vs. Livermore at NM2; Hayward vs. Deer Valley at NM1; De La Salle vs. Bishop O'Dowd at JL; San Ramon Valley at Piedmont.

2 p.m. — St. Mary's vs. Mission San Jose at NM2.

4 p.m. — Amador Valley vs. Castro Valley at NM1.

5 p.m. — Livermore vs. Ygnacio Valley at JL.

6 p.m. — Monte Vista at Newark Memorial; American at Piedmont.

7 p.m. — Pittsburg vs. Irvington at JL.

8 p.m. — San Ramon Valley vs. Moreau Catholic at NM1; James Logan vs. Alameda at Piedmont.

**Friday, Dec. 29**

1 p.m. — C-3 vs. C-4 at NM2; C-5 vs. D-1 at JL.

2 p.m. — D-4 vs. D-5 at Piedmont.

3 p.m. — C-1 vs. C-2 at NM2; B-2 vs. B-3 at JL.

4 p.m. — D-2 vs. D-3 at Piedmont; B-4 vs. B-5 at NM1.

5 p.m. — A-5 vs. B-1 at JL.

6 p.m. — Consolation Championship: A-3 vs. A-4 at NM.

8 p.m. — Championship: A-1 vs. A-2 at NM.

If there is rain, all matches will be played at either James Logan or Witter Field in Piedmont.

## Salsig

FROM PAGE C1

"They wanted clothing for their kids," Berrow said. "It gets cold in the winter in Europe. So I let her go through the shop. She took a lot of clothes and sent them to the kids."

Now there is a Czech National Junior Golf Team. But they all played out of the same barrel, with old clubs. Berrow has made 21 sets of clubs for this team, each fitted to a player's specs. His question was how he would ship them to the Czech republic. Alaska Airlines gave him a clue — they are not the only airline to support non-profit

corporations like Berrow's. Though the clubs have not been sent yet, it is likely that some airline or freight company might help him.

In April, the Czech national team will come to the United States. They are coming to Alameda, the home of junior golf in the States. But this team does not have much, and they had to ask Berrow if it were possible to get some kind of reduced green fees.

Berrow asked Alameda golf manager Dana Banke, and Banke arranged for the team to play Alameda for the resident junior fee of one dollar. Host homes have already been lined up where members of the team can stay.

There is a lot of talk these days

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## SPORTS BRIEFS

### We have moved

The Hills Newspapers' sports department has moved! To contact a reporter, call either Sports Editor Bill Krussink at (510) 748-1652 or e-mail him at bkrussink@ccetimes.com; Mike McGreehan at 748-1661, mmcgreehan@ccetimes.com; or Scott Strain at 748-1662, sstrain@ccetimes.com.

Our department's FAX number is (510) 748-1680, our address is Alameda Journal, 1516 Oak Street, Alameda, CA 94501.

### Golf camps

Nike Junior Holiday Golf Camps will take place at two East Bay locations this month. Two-day camps will be held at Tilden Park Golf Course in Berkeley on Dec. 16-17, Dec. 19-20 and Dec. 27-28; and at Monarch Bay Golf Club (formerly San Leandro Golf Club) on Dec. 27-28. The camps are open to boys and girls 7-17. Cost is \$149 per student. More information on the camps is available by calling 877-312-4653. More information on Nike Golf can be found at [www.nikegolf.com](http://www.nikegolf.com).

### BASHOF Youth Fund grants

Applications are still available for Bay Area Sports Hall of Fame Youth Fund grants for 2001. Youth organizations and schools may apply for these grants to provide sports equipment. Call 415-352-8827 to receive a grant application. Allow two weeks. Deadline for returning completed ap-

plications is Jan. 31, 2001. Grants will be distributed in summer 2001.

### Stars to the Rescue

Milbone and the Oakland A's will present Stars to the Rescue from 7-10:30 p.m. at the Paramount Theatre on Jan. 20. Former A's manager Tony LaRussa will help celebrate three generations of Oakland A's. Celebrity guests will include Michael Bolton, Richard Marx, Dennis DeYoung, Jim Jamison, Tom Johnston and members of the Doobie Brothers. Tickets cost \$35, \$50 and \$100 and are available by calling 625-8497. For \$300 premium tickets, which includes a reception after the event, please call 925-296-3144.

## Lawson

FROM PAGE C1

standards of the program up."

Lawson also said that his goal for the athletic program is to elevate all of the school's athletic programs.

One of those successful programs at St. Mary's is track and field, one of the most dominant in Northern California. Under Lawson, the Panthers have compiled a 127-3 dual-meet record since 1988 with eight North Coast Section titles and a third-place finish in the 2000 California Interscholastic Federation State Meet.

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CONTRA COSTA NEWSPAPERS

HILLS NEWSPAPERS



# Arts

**BILL MANN**

Media Notes

## Three viewing/shopping days left

My annual media Christmas column usually deals with the subject of the real meaning of the holiday, which, I believe, is children. Strip away all the religious overtones of Christmas and what it almost all comes down to is making kids happy and witnessing their joy and excitement.

But is giving them lots of presents the only way to accomplish this? Most parents would probably say so — most of the year, anyway. You give them love and attention, praise and, of course, food, shelter and protection. All these are more important than gifts. But the problem is that at this time of year, kids also expect (demand?) presents.

All too well do I remember the annual pilgrimage my wife and I would make to the big-box toy store each Christmas. Rows and rows of mostly gimcrack toys, nearly all of them desired because of television commercials. One of the best things about having grown kids (our youngest is 21) is not having to make that pilgrimage, not having to buy all those toys and pay those ridiculous and exorbitant marketing and licensing fees.

My wife, like some of you, has never been comfortable with all the Christmas-toy buying. Far more uncomfortable than I was. Didn't our two children receive our undivided attention and love the other 364 days of the year? Absolutely.

Maybe there was a cultural difference between the two of us. It turns out there was, and it had nothing to do with race or religion or the other obvious things. It had a lot to do with TV.

My wife grew up in a home that didn't even have a television until she was 12. Among middle-class families in the 1950s, hers was a rare family indeed.

In our household, the TV was seemingly always on. And so, of course, were the commercials.

When I speak to local groups about television, I find it useful and clarifying to trace the evolution of television from its infancy. I believe it was author Neil Postman ("Amusing Ourselves to Death") who spelled this evolution out so clearly and accurately.

Television, he says, began as an information medium. (Edward R. Murrow et al.) It evolved into an entertainment medium (Lucy, the Beverly Hillbillies, etc., etc.). Then, finally, it moved into what it primarily is today: An advertising medium. There's no other realistic way to look at television. It is there to move product. That's what pays the programming bills.

Of the toys our kids just "had" while growing up that I can remember, all of them were ones they first saw on TV.

There are now more groups demonstrating about the runaway materialism of Christmas; one such group wore Santa suits and held a demonstration in Union Square the other day.

Once wrote these people off as fringe elements or even crackpots. Now I'm not so sure.

Everywhere I look — take my health club, for example — I see people driving pricey (and often bloody and/or polluting) vehicles they first saw on TV. I see them wearing heavily marketed on the tube. I also see a lot of unhappy kids in there — children who get used of things but not what they need the most, parental attention. There is no question in my mind that television is the most powerful engine for creating today's rampant (and unwise) materialism. Sure, there are also all the radio and newspaper ads, but my study I've seen shows that TV ads get the fastest and surest results. (And that's also why they cost so much.)

Now, I'm not saying people should turn off their TV's entirely; they never agreed with that crowd. But, having covered this business for years, there are two things I would suggest to keep this relentless advertising medium somewhat in your home:

1) Make it a point to watch less

2) Watch shows on tape so you can scan through commercials, or, sorry, ladies) quickly click to another station when one comes on.

See MANN, Page C5



IN "CAST AWAY." Tom Hanks plays a man stranded on an island.

## 'Cast Away' is a promise kept

An Oscar-worthy performance by its star is just one of the ways in which this unusually told tale works

By Mary F. Pols

STAFF WRITER

What a relief to be able to say that "Cast Away" is an excellent movie. A relief that comes at halfway through, you start to hear from director Robert Zemeckis and star Tom Hanks to pull off this admirable and unusual Hollywood experiment.

You're skeptical at first, thinking, "Can they really do this?" Tom Hanks alone on a desert island for most of a 2½-hour movie, with nothing but a volleyball to talk to? Even when you start to get the sense they might succeed, you still mentally prepare

### REVIEW

■ **WHAT:** "Cast Away"

■ **STARRING:** Tom Hanks, Helen Hunt, Chris Noth

■ **RATING:** PG-13 (intense action sequences and some disturbing images)

■ **RUNNING TIME:** 2 hours, 30 minutes

■ **WHERE:** Opens today at area theaters

■ **GRADE:** A-

for the deadly ghost of the last Zemeckis-Hanks teaming, "Forrest Gump," to swoop in and squash "Cast Away" into sentimental pulp.

Miraculously, even though the film may tread a fine line, it remains both quietly restrained and deeply moving. It dares to be different, not with the showy passion of youth but rather with the finesse of two experienced filmmakers taking on a new challenge.

We've all heard it's a movie about a man who gets stuck on a desert island, so there's a surprise in having the movie open on a dusty crossroads in Nowheresville, Texas, in 1995. A FedEx truck swings by a ranch belonging to "Dick & Bettina," where Bettina, an artist with an apparent yen for angels' wings, is putting the finishing touches on a sculpture. She sends the FedEx man off with a package bound for Russia, and in a neat sequence, we follow it all the way to Moscow.

It shares a plane with a package sent by FedEx executive Chuck Nolan

(Hanks). In an effort to communicate to his Moscow crew that time is truly of the essence, Chuck has sent himself an egg timer, which he turned on at FedEx headquarters in Memphis. Waving it at the befuddled Russians, Chuck bellows that it's "a shameful outrage" that it took 87 hours, 22 minutes and 17 seconds to arrive at its destination. His obsession with time strikes the first chord of fear — fortunately unrealized — that this will be an obvious movie, designed to teach the workaholic a lesson about how precious life really is.

Chuck may be tightly wound, but he's a good guy, racing back home as quick as he can to be with his girlfriend, Kelly (Helen Hunt in her best performance since "As Good as It

See CAST, Page C5

## My dinner — sort of — with Tom Hanks

Table talk with the star — who doesn't actually eat — proves surprisingly rewarding

By Mary F. Pols

STAFF WRITER

How did Tom Hanks get stuck with the worst chair at the Ritz? It certainly wasn't out of any ill will. And it wasn't because he wasn't expected. The atmosphere at Ritz-Carlton in San Francisco tends to be discreet at all times, but there was still a buzz in the air, albeit a quiet one, as Hanks' arrival became more and more imminent. The dinner buffet was steaming, every piece of silver was gleaming, and a fleet of black-clad waiters stood poised to replenish any dish that showed signs of human consumption.

Eight journalists, including this one, had been nibbling snacks from dainty platters for an hour, while a team of 20th Century Fox publicists gave regular bulletins on his whereabouts ("His plane just touched down"). That Someone of Importance was on his way must have been obvious; a man in the eighth-floor lounge had approached our group and asked, "Is someone famous coming?" My wife thinks someone famous is coming. The publicists gave him polite but blank stares.

Hanks was sweeping into town for the shortest visit imaginable, along with Robert Zemeckis, the director of "Cast Away," Hanks' latest and perhaps most personal project to date. He dreamed up the plot himself, six years ago when he was making "Apollo 13," so he's got enough vested in it to do a full media blitz. It's an unusual movie, in that for most of its 2½-hour length, Hanks — playing a FedEx executive who survives a plane crash in the South Seas — is alone on a desert island, with nothing but the wind, the sea and an old volleyball as his companions. It is the second time the two men have teamed up for a movie, the first being none other than the blockbuster, Oscar-winning "Forrest Gump."

We hear his voice before we see him, that particular Tom Hanks brand of slightly nasal voice that we first became familiar with nearly 20 years ago during the glory days of "Bosom Buddies." Then he waltzes in, shakes each of our hands and heads for the lone empty chair and sits down. His shoulders come to the table's edge.

Tom Hanks looks as ridiculous sitting in that chair as I felt. The face known for its elasticity contorts into something between a grimace and a laugh. "I can't sit here!" he says and bolts up out of it. One of the publicists darts off to get him another one. "When I came in," he says, gesturing at the diminutive reporter, sitting quietly in his absurd chair, "I just assumed you were one of the junior hires."

There it is. Tom Hanks is naturally funny. And charming and articulate, just as you would expect. He immediately lights into the reporter from Salon.com, asking him how on earth the company makes any money. His curiosity is genuine, even if his delivery is teasing. We all laugh, and suddenly the proposition of having dinner-table conversation with Tom Hanks no longer seems so strange. Of course, he never actually eats, choosing to drink what looks like hot chocolate first, then a cup of coffee delivered from Starbucks. But he's good company.

The last few times I've seen him on television, he was beefy and hairy, in "costume" for the early part of "Cast Away." Zemeckis had what Hanks terms the "audacious" brainstorm to shoot the movie in two spurts, a full year apart, during which Zemeckis went to Vermont to make "What Lies Beneath" and Hanks lost 60 pounds, grew an enormous, rather hideous beard and let his hair turn into a shaggy mess in order to show the passage of time that Chuck spends on the island.

But today he is as trim as post-four-years-on-an-island Chuck, clean-shaven and clad in a sharp gray suit, with a slightly darker charcoal shirt underneath. Despite the fact that he's always seemed more like the cute, accessible guy than the movie star, Hanks in person is quite dashing.

We hear his voice before we see

Someone starts with a softball question about how the TV show "Survivor" might have an impact on the public's reaction to "Cast Away." I've already read Hanks' response to this one a couple of times, and there's a tiny flicker of frustration — just the tiniest — as he gives the same answer again, which is that the television show has been over for a few months and is out of the public's consciousness, and that there's a considerable difference between it and his movie anyway. Finally he ends that discussion with a quip about how with only one person on the island, it's hard to vote yourself off.

He goes on to explain that the germ for his man-alone-on-an-island concept came from an interview he saw on television with writer Louis L'Amour, who was talking about being shot down during World War II and having to cling to an atoll somewhere for a few days.

"What struck me was that the person who was interviewing him just didn't get that that was not a pleasant situation for him," Hanks remembers. "She kept asking, 'don't you want to go back to that atoll and see it again?' And he kept saying, 'no, no I don't.'"

At that point, he started thinking about what a life would be like if suddenly all distractions were taken away on a desert island. As he put it to us, "After finding food and fire, the basic necessities, what in the world do you do?"

Early on, Hanks and writer William Broyles Jr. thought of portraying Chuck as a modern-day Rip Van Winkle, baffled by the world he returns to. But they quickly rejected that idea (Hanks calls this one the "Chuck of the Jungle" idea). They also considered making Chuck a talkaholic, suddenly deprived of anyone to talk to. That idea went by the wayside as the story evolved — although Chuck Nolan is certainly a voluble man — because they didn't want this to be the story of, as Hanks describes it, "a man who learns his lesson." However, the Chuck who does make it onto the screen does learn a les-

### EVENTS

**Carron-Stanford House** — The Carron-Stanford House, a stately 1876 Italianate-style home which was at one time the Oakland Public Museum, has been restored and furnished with appropriate furnishings by the Carron-Stanford House Preservation. It is the last Victorian home on Lake Merritt's shore. It has period rooms, lavishly furnished.

**Special Events** — "Oh! What a Beautiful Tree" Dec. 30 The 12-foot decorated with garlands, made cornucopias, baskets of nuts can flags. The design from an article in "Good Book," Dec. 1860. Wednesday 11 a.m. Sunday, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. \$2 seniors; \$1 adults; to 18: free children. 14th Street and Lakeside, (510) 444-1111.

**Cohen Bray House** — Stick-style Victorian and occupied by descendants of the original owners and furniture. The house is decorated for the Special Event. Tour, Dec. 30, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. a donation only. \$2 seniors and youth. 1440 29th Ave. Oakland (510) 849-2906.

**Berkeley Potters Guild 29th Annual Holiday Sale** — through Dec. 24 Artists' workspaces are transformed into festively decorated spaces where each artist selection and full range of pottery works. Free. Through Dec. 24, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. 731 Jones St. Berkeley (510) 524-7031.

**The 17th Annual Telegraph Avenue Holiday Street Fair** — Dec. 24. Featuring street artists, merchants, community groups offering unusual handcrafts. Free. Thursday through Sunday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Telegraph Avenue between Brancifort and Broadway. Berkeley (510) 841-1111.

**"Return Of The Night Of The Naughty Santas"** — Dec. 27, 7:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. A musical comedy with Nick Phelps and The Spontaneous Ensemble featuring new animation and film. \$10, 21 Grand, 21 Grandland, (415) 681-3189.

**Paramount Movie Classics Series** — The evening includes a classic movie, walk-in music from the Wurlitzer organ, a newsreel, cartoon, movie previews and the Paramount's prize give-away game "Dec-O-Win."

"The Seven Year Itch" — Dec. 28, 7:30 p.m. While Richard Sherman's family escapes a hot New York summer at an ocean side resort, Marilyn Monroe moves into the upstairs apartment. \$5, 25 Broadway, Oakland, (510) 465-6400 or (925) 762-2277.

**Chi Gallery** — "The Invisible Woman," closing Dec. 30. An exhibit of tapestries and paintings by Connee Innis. Free. Tuesday through Friday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Saturday, noon to 5 p.m. 912-A Clay St., Oakland (510) 832-4224.

**Creative Growth** — "Gift Rap," through Jan. 5. An exhibit of fine arts and crafts by studio artists with disabilities. Free. Monday through Friday, noon to 5:30 p.m. 355 24th St., Oakland (510) 836-2340.

**Kala Art Institute** — "Artists' Annual Exhibition," through Jan. 16. An exhibit of works. Free. Tuesday through Friday, noon to 5 p.m. Workshop Media Center Gallery, 1060 Heinz Ave., Berkeley, (510) 549-2977.

**New Places Gallery** — "Worth 1000 Words," through Jan. 1. An exhibit of quilts by Deb and Ken Brothers. "Holiday Art Faire," through Jan. 1. Featuring quilts, dolls, and gifts. Free. Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Tuesday and Thursday, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Sunday, noon to 5 p.m. 1597 Solano Ave., Berkeley, (510) 527-6779.

**Oakland Main Library** — "McClintock's High School: Story of an Oakland School," closing Dec. 30. An exhibit about the "School of Champions," whose alumni include Bill Russell, Frank Robinson, and Curt Flood. Free. Monday, Tuesday and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; Wednesday and Thursday, noon to 8 p.m.; Friday, noon to 5:30 p.m.; Sunday, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Oakland History Room, 125 14th St., Oakland, (510) 238-3222.

**Lizabeth Oliveria Gallery** — Christopher Oliveria, closing Dec. 26. An exhibit of paintings and sculpture. Free. Tuesday through Saturday, 10:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. 942 Clay St., Oakland, (510) 625-1350.

See HANKS, Page C5

See EVENTS, Page C5







## Reviews

FROM PAGE C4

**"MEET THE PARENTS":** Nothing goes right for poor Greg Focker (Ben Stiller) when he meets his girlfriend Pam's (Teri Hatcher) parents. Dad, Robert De Niro, a reformed CIA psychological profiler, treats him like a KGB spy, and fake-friendly Mom (Annette Bening) is just what he needs. The plot is a little predictable and at times heavy-handed, but it's funnier than you'd expect, with just the right notes of menace mixed in. Stiller proves once again that he's a comic gem. — M. Pols. (PG-13: sexual content, drug references and language.) 1 hour, 48 minutes. B+

**"102 DALMATIANS":** Glenn Close is back as Cruella in this sequel to Disney's 1986 live-action version of everyone's favorite catanation story. But now she wants to be called "Ella" (Cruella sounds too cruel), so she's changed her name. She's also a bit more villainous as ever, the plot is perfectly serviceable, the dogs are cute (although we don't get to know them well), and there's only one dog "star" (and a little to complain about). The kids will love it, and unless you hate puppies, you'll probably be entertained as well. — M. Pols. (G) 1 hour, 41 minutes. B+

**"PROOF OF LIFE":** A long and thoughtful film, based on a 1998 article in Vanity Fair about the kidnapping and ransom business. American engineer Peter Bowman (David Morrissey) is kidnapped by rebels in a fictional South American country. His wife, Alice (Russell Crowe), hires professional negotiator (Russell Crowe) to get him back. They talk for each other, but director Taylor Hackford doesn't take the easy way out. He keeps Peter's plight fresh in our minds, and never turns the movie into a steamy romance between Terry and Alice. The movie lacks the spark of greatness, but it's solid. — M. Pols. (R: violence, language and some drug material.) 2 hours, 15 minutes. B

**"DOLLAR":** Bay Area filmmaker Philip Kaufman returns to directing after a seven-year absence with a big splash, a movie about the Marquis de Sade that has best-picture nomination written all over it. Geoffrey Rush (Sade) plays the infamous pornographer, who has been imprisoned in an insane asylum. He keeps churning out the porn, which is smuggled out to his publisher by a comely laundress, played by Kate Winslet. The movie feels almost like a farce until the Marquis (with this penis) are taken from his by a doctor (Michael Caine) who plans to "cure" him of his sickness, and everything grows dark and tragic. You won't see a better collection of actors at work this year. — M. Pols. (R: strong sexual

content, including dialogue, violence and language.) 2 hours, 3 minutes. A

**"THE 8TH DAY":** A decent action flick starring Arnold Schwarzenegger as a family luncheon who discovers he's been cloned, and now is a marked man. The action sequences are fun, and Arnie lightens up, infusing the film with some humor. Still, it's middle-of-the-line Schwarzenegger, on a par with "Total Recall" but well below James Cameron's "True Lies" and "Terminator" flicks. Robert Duvall brings weary charm to his role as a cloning researcher — D. Germain. (PG-13: strong action violence, brief strong language and some sensuality.) 2 hours, 4 minutes. B-

**"A TIME FOR DRUNKEN HORSES":** A powerful film that takes an unflinching look at poverty and strife and the people of northern Iran who endure it. Writer-director Bahman Ghobadi takes a sobering look at a harsh environment where food, medical care and work are often scarce. It's bitter medicine, a tale so painfully close to the truth and so relentlessly bleak that it may be too bitter for some moviegoers to swallow. — G. Dowell. (Unrated: mild violence, child endangerment.) 1 hour, 20 minutes. B

**"TWO FAMILY HOUSE":** On the surface, this independent feature is a sweet little movie about one man's frustration in a world of limited possibilities. But what makes the struggle of this "impossible dreamer" truly gripping is the way it fore-shadows a whole nation's social upheaval. Buddy (Michael Rispoli) is filled with good intentions, but his ill-fated business ventures really strike home when he purchases a house that will double as shelter as well as a bar. A masterful portrait of ethnic America at mid-century that rivals Barry Levinson's Baltimore films in its wistful reminiscence. — M. Crenson. (R: language and brief sexuality.) 1 hour, 44 minutes. A-

**"UNBREAKABLE":** M. Night Shyamalan hasn't deviated from the incredibly successful formula he used in "The Sixth Sense." He's got the same star (a muted Bruce Willis), the same setting (Philadelphia), the same supernatural theme. There's even a surprise ending. Although it's thoroughly engaging and compelling, this movie suffers in comparison to "The Sixth Sense," because it's just too similar. We've already been down this path. With Samuel L. Jackson and Robin Wright Penn. — M. Pols. (PG-13: disturbing violent content and a crude sexual reference, some language and sensuality.) 1 hour, 47 minutes. B

**"VERTICAL LIMIT":** An action-adventure story set on K2, the world's second highest mountain, with Chris O'Donnell as a noble brother trying to save his mountain-climbing sister's (Robin Tunney) trapped in a snow cave at 26,000 feet! Ice. Director Martin Campbell tosses the characters off cliffs,

dangles them from rocks and blows them to bits in violent explosions until we've seen virtually every permutation of death in thin air. Dreadful dialogue and atrocious acting, but the scenery can't be beat, and there are some good tense moments. All in all, an entertaining but lengthy lesson in what happens when you have no limits at all. — M. Pols. (PG-13: intense life-death situations and brief strong language.) 2 hours, 6 minutes. C+

**"WHAT WOMEN WANT?":** Ignore the cross trailers. Mel Gibson's comic venture argues for the return of the musical. Although directed by Nancy Meyers, this covert operation of the sexes in pre-1965 Hollywood style is by no means a women's film. Gibson, though, manages to pull it off as a son of a showgirl and an arrogant character who, in an accident, acquires the ability to overhear women's thoughts. After his initial bewilderment, he uses it to compete with his new boss (Helen Hunt). The wrap-up's rhythm is rushed and (expectedly) hokey, but the operation before then is mostly a diverting success. — V. Chan. (PG-13: sexual content and language.) 2 hours, 3 minutes. B+

**"WHAT'S COOKING?":** The rituals and squabbles between four clans during the Thanksgiving holiday might sound like less-than-palatable fare. But writer/director Gunter Chhabra makes this well-acted comedy-drama featuring four families living in an ethnically rich section of Los Angeles less cheesy and feel-good than it might sound, despite some overbearing music. Starring John Chen, Dennis Haysbert, Alfre Woodard, A Martinez, Kyra Sedgwick and Mercedes Ruehl, it's quite lively and funny at times, and other times painful and real. The only downside is that the film heaps on too much soap opera near the end. — C. Lemire. (PG-13: some sexuality, brief language and a perilous situation.) 1 hour, 46 minutes. B-

**"YOU CAN COUNT ON ME":** Kenneth Lonergan makes a strong debut as writer/director in this offbeat movie about the bond between brothers and sisters. Sammy (Laura Linney) and Terry (Mark Ruffalo) were orphaned as young kids, and their lives have taken very different paths. Sammy works at the local bank and has never left home (she lives in their parents' house with her 8-year-old son), while Terry is an aimless drifter. The movie looks at what happens when Terry comes home for a visit and the two are reunited. Co-winner of this year's Grand Jury Prize at Sundance, this is a small movie that parks itself in your brain and refuses to depart. Linney and Ruffalo are both outstanding, and Matthew Broderick shines (as usual) in a small part. — M. Pols. (R: language, some sexuality and drug use.) 1 hour, 32 minutes. A-

the rickety raft he builds, but this viewer would argue that it actually just shifts the focus of the movie from a quasi-adventure story to something more philosophical. What does happen at the end of the odyssey, when you get back to civilization, when you reunite with the people you love, after being alone for so long?

Zemckis handles Chuck's return with grace. In a powerful scene, Kelly is brought to a big party at FedEx headquarters to celebrate Chuck's arrival. Zemckis sets Hanks up in a vast, empty, windowed lounge, with the partygoers milling around on the other side of the glass. He crosses the lounge and ends up watching her — she's outside in a parking lot — through yet another window, against a backdrop of the familiar blue FedEx airplanes. A roaring jet engine echoes the sound of the wind of Chuck's island. He's just as alone in this new scenario, even if Kelly is just a few feet away.

The movie ends back at the same crossroads where it began, and this is where the viewer really begins to pray that Zemckis won't go all mawkish on us. Chuck is there to drop off the battered but still unopened angel-wing package, which makes you think, yikes! Is he going to put a big old ugly bow on this meticulously crafted story and tie everything up too neatly? But breathe easy: Zemckis ends on an ambiguous, wistful note, keeping the movie elegantly pared down.

Movies that are supposed to be about the "Journies of the heart" very rarely have real heart. "Cast Away" is a major exception.

your politics, really is detrimental to family values.

And one guiding economic principle I've learned from my wife: It's not what you make. It's what you spend.

And, of course, there is no greater promoter of spending than television. Excessive, pointless Christmas spending is the kind of short-sighted thing that might make kids happy for a few days, but that's it.

You don't have to kill your television. Try to do at least take it hostage. Try to minimize the damage it can do to your kids and your pocketbook.

**Here's a Present:** Maybe a cheap one, but a heartfelt one: Nonsectarian season's greetings and best holiday wishes to all you faithful readers and to Hills Newspapers editors and staff. Thanks for all the many intelligent and incisive letters and e-mail throughout the year. Also, I am grateful to all those who work in local TV and radio who contribute to — and regularly read — this column (you know who you are). Have a great holiday season one and all. That also goes for the Raiders!

(Questions? Comments? E-mail newsman@sonic.net)

## Hanks

FROM PAGE C3

son. Pre-accident, he is obsessed with it, he even tells a slow FedEx crew in Moscow that "we must never allow ourselves the sin of losing track of time." On the island, he learns to laugh at that concept.

As people made various inane suggestions to them ("How about there's a supermodel on the island with him? Or a pet monkey?"), they realized they had two goals. The first was to make Chuck's experience as authentic as possible, which Broyles accomplished by temporarily "shipwrecking" himself on an island near the Sea of Cortez and incorporating his own attempts to catch fish, fashion a knife from stone and find fresh water into the "Cast Away" script.

Their second goal was to somehow capture the philosophical experience of being alone for four years, and the impact it would have on a life after a return to civilization. More specifically, they wanted to explore what would happen when he returned to his girlfriend, Kelly (Helen Hunt), the woman he was about to marry when his plane crashed. It was the memory of Kelly that gave Chuck the will to live for those four long, lonely years.

Hanks has already gotten plenty of flack over recent trailers for "Cast Away," which make it clear that Chuck eventually makes it home. But he says he's not worried that they spoil the movie's outcome for viewers. The emotional payoff of the movie, he says, is not Chuck's triumphant and daring escape from the island, but rather what happens when those two people, who love each other so much, are at long last standing in the same room together again. Besides, as Hanks puts it, "Everybody knew that big ship was going to sink, but that didn't stop them from seeing 'Titanic'."

What does happen in the delicately crafted and very intense scene between Kelly and Chuck should remain a secret, because it truly is the heart of the movie. It's a scene that absolutely has to work for the film to resonate, and Hanks knows that.

"I hope that we landed on it," he says, just a tad wistfully. But it's too tempting not to ask Hanks what approach he'd take if he came back after four years and needed to reclaim his own wife, actress Rita Wilson. Would he beg? Plead? Be furious with her for believing he was dead? It's the only question of the evening that Hanks evades.

"That's a hypothetical situation

and I'm a practical man," he says.

He's much more open about how hard the role was for him as an actor. The aforementioned volleyball (which was in one of the dozen or so FedEx packages that wash up on shore with Chuck after the wreck) represented the closest thing Hanks had to a fellow actor. Chuck dubs the ball "Wilson," pines a face on it and talks to it as if it were a person. But other than that, there's no one to share dialogue with, no one to react to. Establishing the emotional pitch was entirely up to Hanks.

"In a one-man show, where do you get your reactions?" Hanks says. "I must say that it was the greatest challenge you can face as an actor."

He credits Zemckis with helping him from behind the camera. The two men had developed a deep faith in each other's instincts while making "Forrest Gump."

"I remember being on the 'Forrest Gump' set for two days and Bob came into my trailer and said, 'I know what you're trying to do and it's not working.' That's all it took. It wasn't a slap on the face, but it was a bit bracing."

You might expect some comic shittick from Hanks alone on an island, at least some funny voice-over. But beyond one scene where he revels in making his first fire, thumping his chest and shouting, "Me make fire," the jocular Hanks we're most used to isn't evident. From the start of the project, he was adamant that he would not narrate on the island.

"I'm not going to talk and say 'Ooh, this sand is hot,'" he remembers saying. "I'm not going to say any of that. I'm not going editorialize."

One thing he had going for him was the reality of the experience itself. On Monu-riki, the uninhabited 99-acre island in Fiji where most of the film was shot, the sand was hot, the rocks he walks on were jagged and the waves that toss him around are very real. It wasn't hard to look physically daunted, because he was "You didn't have to fake the things that were happening there," he says. And whereas on a typical movie there'd be much downtime between takes, in "Cast Away," minimal equipment (no lights, no dollies) and no other co-stars meant Zemckis could go quickly from one scene to another.

"The pace was bone-wearying," Hanks says.

Even if he'd had the time between takes, Hanks didn't have a trailer to retreat to on Monu-riki. At dusk he'd board a deep-sea fishing boat and be ferried 40 minutes to the island where he was staying. On the sec-

ond shoot, the crew stayed on two small cruise ships just offshore of Monu-riki.

If that sounds nice, Hanks quickly dispels any notion that the experience was a holiday. "You'd think, 'Man, I spent the whole day in nature today,' and then the next thing you'd think was how nice it was to get out of it. Here we were in Fiji, but we'd had enough. You know how it is when you're on vacation and you think, 'Oh, I'd like to open a bookstore here and stay here forever,' but then by the 10th day, you're thinking, 'When does the plane leave?'"

Ditto for the bushy beard and long hair, which were fun for "about a week" and then became an annoyance.

Still, making "Cast Away" broke new ground for Hanks as an actor, no mean feat considering he's the man who starred in one of Spielberg's most momentous movies ("Saving Private Ryan"), who won back-to-back Oscars for serious roles (in "Philadelphia" and "Forrest Gump") and who slips into comedic but touching roles ("Big," "Sleepless in Seattle") the way no one else can.

"Ultimately I know I'm not a mystery to the people who are coming to the movie," Hanks says. "You don't land brand-new in the eye of the moviegoer. It's dicey, in all honesty. You have to be careful (of that familiarity). Look at someone like Gary Oldman. I have no idea what this guy's like. He's uncompromisingly mysterious."

With his Everyman accessibility, Hanks is hardly mysterious. But he can still do the unexpected. "Cast Away" proves that — and not just to audiences, but to Hanks himself.

"There's a lot of brand-new stuff in there that I'm surprised to see," he says, mentioning a scene where Chuck, after four years on the island, expertly spears a fish and then eats it raw. He could cook it on his fire, but why bother? His body language has completely changed since the movie's beginning. It's caught somewhere between the regal bearing of a man who knows his land intimately and the weariness of a man who has known nothing but solitude he doesn't want. His eyes are glazed, distant, beyond sad.

"I didn't know where that was coming from," Hanks says.

He looks pensive for a second or two, and then, very pleased. It's not an ego moment, because Hanks seems genuinely free of arrogance. Something about the pleasure he takes in his work makes Tom Hanks seem like a very fine dinner companion, even if he doesn't eat.

That and the shittick with the chair

## Cast

FROM PAGE C3

Greg), a graduate student just finishing up his dissertation. They are a loving and mutually respectful couple, while it's clear that Kelly wishes Chuck didn't travel so much, she's willing to make accommodations for him and vice versa. They share a home, fall asleep in front of the television and wear bad sweaters together.

When he's called away for an emergency on Christmas day — shouting "I'll be right back" over his shoulder to Kelly as he heads for a FedEx jet — we know it's only a matter of time before the plane goes down. Still, it's a jolt when he dies, because Zemckis ("What Lies Beneath," "Back to the Future") does such a spectacularly effective job of sending the plane crashing into the South Seas. It's genuinely harrowing, even though Chuck does manage to escape, clutching an inflatable raft.

As he watches the flames lick at the water and the plane sinking beneath the surface, carrying its dead crew with it, Chuck weeps. The sense of isolation and terror conveyed in those moments is remarkable.

By the next morning, he and several FedEx packages have been swept up on a small volcanic island, with beautiful white beaches and waving palm trees. A ring of dangerous breakers thunder around him. At this point you realize that there's none of the incessant music we've come to expect will fill every silence in a movie. Who would have thought Zemckis, he of

the Gumpian heartstrings, would give up the symphony?

Thank heavens he does, because it gives the next 90 minutes or so a sparseness and fresh sense of reality as we watch a mostly mute Hanks realize there is no hope for a rescue and learn to fend for himself, from finding food to building a fire. Frankly, you'd expect this whole sequence to be boring, but it's not. Hanks himself is so engaging, and his plight so poignant and vividly realized, that we're transfixed. Even Chuck's friendship with "Wilson," a volleyball he finds in one of the FedEx packages (a local employee, it takes him awhile to open them, and even then he sets one, painted with those tell-tale angel wings, aside) seems feasible in these desperate circumstances.

Always a natural comic actor, Hanks now seems as naturally adept at drama. It's hard to imagine he won't get an Oscar nomination for this role. He deserves one, and not just because he made the effort to change his body completely to show the effect four years on the island have on Chuck (the movie was filmed in two sections, a year apart). It's likely some critics are going to dismiss Hanks' 60-pound weight loss as a gimmick, but that wouldn't be fair. It's a costume, a means to the role. Hanks' acting still does the work.

If you haven't seen the trailer and don't want to know anymore, stop reading here. If you have seen the trailer — and it's been hard to miss on television — you already know that Chuck does escape and return to civilization. For many people, the trailer represents a spoiler, and it certainly dissipates the tension of watching him set to sea in

four grocery bags from the store for \$15 or less. They both hate shopping.

We have scaled way back on our Christmas gift-giving in recent years, especially since our old Volvo (with 218,000 miles recently died and we had to buy a replacement vehicle last week. I loved parking that long-reliable old clunker at the health club amidst all the new SUV's, Lexi, and BMW's).

We are absolutely heedless of TV's nonstop siren song to break out the plastic.

To parents of young kids who are in the same boat we were 15 years ago, I can only say: I've been there, and I appreciate your plight this holiday season. Do what you can (within reason) to substitute love for presents. Get fewer presents than you might normally; hey, it's a start. It is sad but true that some parents — and we've all met them — feel so guilty this time of year about not spending more time with their children that they load up on the presents.

Believe me, I've been around enough youngsters to know that doesn't work. Often, just the opposite. You can spoil kids with things. You can't spoil them with love and attention. Television, whatever

## Events

FROM PAGE C3

**Royal Ground Gallery** — "Dynamic Expressions," through Jan. 1. A gallery exhibit of painting, collage, mixed media, photography and sculpture. Free. Daily, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. 2058 Mountain Blvd., Oakland. (510) 339-0348.

**Dunsmuir House And Gardens Historic Estate** — The 50 acres of gardens and grounds at the mansion are open to the public. Tuesday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Free. Dunsmuir House and Gardens Historic Estate, 2960 Peralta Oaks Court, Oakland. (925) 275-9490 or (510) 615-5555 or www.dunsmuir.org

**Holt Planetarium** — Programs are recommended for age 8 and up; children under age 6 will not be admitted.

"Stonehenge," through Dec. 31. Saturday, Sunday and Holidays, 1 p.m. and 2 p.m. CLOSED DEC. 24 AND DEC. 25.

"Constellations Tonight," ongoing. Using a simple star map, learn to identify the most prominent constellations for the season in the planetarium sky. Saturday and Sunday, 3:30 p.m.

\$2 plus museum admission of \$6 general; \$4 students, seniors, disabled and youths aged 7 to 18; children under the age of 6 are not admitted. Daily 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Dec. 24, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. CLOSED DEC. 25. Lawrence Hall of Science, University of California, Centennial Drive, Berkeley. (510) 642-5132 or www.lhs.berkeley.edu

**Oakland Zoo** — African Savanna, ongoing. This zoo territory consists of two huge mixed-animal aviaries and 11 African Savanna exhibits. See the meerkat family, hyenas, green monkeys and even a savanna monitor.

Visit the Mahali Pa Tembo (Place of the Elephant) to see African lions, giraffes, chimpanzees and more than 330 other animals from around the world who live in this Oakland hills park. The zoo includes a Children's Petting Zoo, the Skyride, a miniature train, a carousel, picnic grounds and a gift shop.

"Simba Pori," Swahili for "Lion Country," is a spacious 1.5-acre habitat offering both a savanna and woodland setting for two adult African lions and four young lions.

"Footprints from the Past," is an anthropology exhibit showcasing 4 million years of human evolution and an actual "footpath" of the first

hominids to emerge from the African savanna.

"Sun Bear Exhibit." See the state-of-the-art space the zoo has developed for its two sun bears. The bears' home is designed to challenge the bears mentally as well as physically, forcing them to forage for food as much as they would do in the wild. The naturalistic habitat is over an acre in size and includes much pits for exploration, climbing structures, nesting structures, a large pond and rooting machines.

The Siamang Island Exhibit, ongoing. The island is a state-of-the-art, barrier-free exhibit that emulates the gibbons' native tropical rain forest habitat.

**SPECIAL EVENT** — "Zoollights at the Oakland Zoo," through Dec. 30. This glittering wonderland of lights features playful characters created with 100,000 lights. Included will be kangaroos, animated elephants, lions, tigers and more. The mile-long adventure also features a visit to a Holiday Village decked out with huge toy soldiers and candy canes. Daily, 5:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. weather permit-

ting. \$6.50 general; \$4 children age 2 to 14; free children under age 2. \$6.50 general. \$3.50 seniors and children age 2 to 14; free children under age 2. \$3 parking fee. Daily 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Knowland Park, 9777 Golf Links Road exit off Interstate Highway 580, Oakland. (510) 632-9525 or www.oaklandzoo.org

**Tilden Regional Park** — "Lights, Camera, Nature," Dec. 23, 10 a.m. Explore the natural world through the lens of a camera. For age 12 and older. "Just Past Solstice Stories/Crafts," Dec. 23, 1 p.m. Learn about the summer and winter solstices with winter tales, songs of celebration, and arts and crafts. \$5 to \$7. "Astronomy of the Star of Bethlehem," Dec. 24, 2 p.m. A slide show on the recent ideas about the special star. "New Moon Hike," Dec. 24, 4:30 p.m. A walk to Wildcat Peak. "Special Birdwalk: Boxing Day," Dec. 26, 7:30 a.m. Look for the wren,

See EVENTS, Page C6

## Mann

FROM PAGE C3

see absolutely no point of watching a televised advertising pitch when children are present — that is, unless the parent immediately and consistently explains and/or critiques each ad. One approach I've always used with my two kids is to tell them that television commercials cost a fortune, and that the reason advertisers pay such vast amounts of money on TV ads is simply to convince people to buy things they really don't need. I find that a common-sense, honest, and middle-ground approach.

Despite all the thousands of hours our TV has been on, I am happy to report, both our children were National Merit finalists and they have both grown into well-adjusted, non-materialistic adults with a relentless cynicism about TV and especially, about anything advertised thereon.

My wife's lifelong resistance to conspicuous consumption has been taken hold with both: My daughter, a senior at college, does most of her shopping at thrift stores. And she's the only person I know besides my wife who can bring home

**MAKE YOUR HOME A LOT SAFER...**

{and spend NO money!}

**GRAND OPENING!**

COUNTY **HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE FACILITY**

Visit the Mahali Pa Tembo (Place of the Elephant) to see African lions, giraffes, chimpanzees and more than 330 other animals from around the world who live in this Oakland hills park. The zoo includes a Children's Petting Zoo, the Skyride, a miniature train, a carousel, picnic grounds and a gift shop.

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**Call 1-888-412-9277 for an appointment!**



# Events

FROM PAGE C5

"the king of all birds." "EEC Open House," Dec. 30, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Exhibits, animals, and nature crafts are offered throughout the day. "New Year's Eve Tea Tasting," Dec. 31, 1 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Learn the lore of tea, thrill to the story of The Great Tea Race and sample a variety of teas and traditional refreshments. For ages 8 and above. \$5 to \$7. "The 18th Annual New Year's Eve Hike," Dec. 31, 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Learn New Year's customs and traditions from around the world on this yearly walk. This year is the Millennium edition. Dress warmly. "Mini-Rangers," Jan. 9, 3:30 p.m. An active afternoon of nature study, conservation, and old-fashioned rambling. For age 8 to 12. Registration required. **BOTANICAL GARDEN** — Guided docent tours of the gardens. Call ahead for times and to confirm tour is on for the day: most Saturdays and Sundays, 2 p.m. Free. (510) 841-8732. Free unless noted otherwise. Take Canon Drive off Grizzly Peak Boulevard, Berkeley. (510) 525-2236. **UC Berkeley Botanical Garden** — ongoing. The gardens have displays of exotic and native plants. **TOURS** — Botanical Garden Tours, Saturday and Sunday, 1:30 p.m. Meet at the Tour Orientation Center for a free docent tour. \$3 general; \$2 seniors; \$1 children; free on Thursday. Daily, 9 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. Botanical Garden, Centennial Drive, behind Memorial Stadium, a mile below the Lawrence Hall of Science, Berkeley. (510) 643-2755 or [www.mip.berkeley.edu/garden/](http://www.mip.berkeley.edu/garden/)

**Barnes and Noble, Oakland** — "Kids Story Times," ongoing. Stories will be read in the Children's book area. Free, Thursday, 4 p.m.; Sunday, 1 p.m. 98 Broadway, Jack London Square, Oakland. (510) 272-0120.

**Berkeley Public Library** — **CLAREMONT BRANCH** — Percussionist James Henry, Dec. 28. A drumming and dance program. 2940 Benvenue Ave. (510) 644-3880. **SOUTH BRANCH** — Muriel Johnson of Abiyomi Storytelling, Dec. 30. Featured storyteller of annual Kwanzaa celebration. 1901 Russell St. (510) 644-6860. Free. Berkeley.

**Children's Fairyland USA** — A fairy tale theme park featuring more than 30 colorful fantasy sets. Designed especially for children age 10 and under, there are gentle rides, a train, the "Peter Rabbit Village," puppet shows, storytelling and lots of slides and animals. "Play Island," ongoing. A multi-level treehouse play area inspired by the novel "Swiss Family Robinson." **SPECIAL EVENTS** — Owen Baker Flynn, Dec. 23. "Act-in-a-Box" features juggling, tricks and jokes. East Bay Depot, Dec. 26 through Dec. 29. Creative art projects made out of the unlikeliest of items. Jacqueline Lynaugh, the Snow Queen, Dec. 30 and Dec. 31. \$5 general includes unlimited rides, special shows, guest entertainers and puppet shows; free children under age 1. Friday through Sunday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Grand and Bellevue Avenues, Oakland. (510) 452-2259 or (510) 238-6878 or [www.fairyland.org](http://www.fairyland.org)

**Habitat Children's Museum** — A museum especially for children age 7 and younger. Highlights include "WaterWorks," an area with some unusual water toys, an Infant Tree for babies, a garden especially for toddlers, a child-scale grocery store and cafe, and a costume shop and stage for junior thespians. The museum also features a toy lending library. **EXHIBIT** — "Back to the Farm," open-ended. This interactive exhibit gives children the chance to wiggle through tunnels like an earthworm, look into a mirrored fish pond, don farm animal costumes, ride on a John Deere tractor and much more. \$4 adults; \$6 children age 7 and under; \$3 for each additional child. Monday and Wednesday, 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.; Tuesday and Friday, 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Thursday, 9:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Kiltredge Street and Shattuck Avenue, Berkeley. (510) 647-1111 or [www.habitat.org](http://www.habitat.org)

**Hall Of Health** — A hands-on community health education museum and science center sponsored by Children's Hospital Oakland and Alta Bates Medical Center. **EXHIBITS** — "This Is Your Heart!" ongoing. An interactive exhibit on heart health. "Good Nutrition," ongoing. This exhibit includes models for making balanced meals and an exercise for calculating how calories are burned.

"Draw Your Own Insides," ongoing. Human-shaped chalkboards and models with removable organs allow visitors to explore the inside of their bodies. "Your Cellular Self and Cancer Prevention," ongoing. An exhibit on understanding how cells become cancerous and how to detect and prevent cancer. Free, Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. 2230 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. (510) 549-1564 or [www.hallofhealth.org](http://www.hallofhealth.org)

**Oakland Public Library** — **BROOKFIELD BRANCH** — "Kwanzaa Celebration," Dec. 27, 5 p.m. Featuring storyteller Muriel Johnson with her African songs and tales. 9255 Edes Ave. (510) 615-5725. **GOLDEN GATE BRANCH** — "Toddler Lapsit," third and fourth Saturday, 10:30 a.m. Time for stories, songs, rhymes, fingerplays and more. For age 6 months to 3 1/2 and their parents or caregivers. 5606 San Pablo Ave. (510) 597-5023. **MELROSE BRANCH** — "Kwanzaa Celebration," Dec. 27, 3 p.m. Featuring storyteller Muriel Johnson with her African songs and tales. 5420 Bancroft Ave. (510) 535-5623. **MONTCLAIR BRANCH** — "Preschool Storytime," Wednesday, 10:30 a.m. "Toddler Storytime," Wednesday, 11:30 a.m. 1687 Mountain Blvd. (510) 482-7810. **TEMESCAL BRANCH** — "Drop-in Crafts: Photo Frame Cards," Dec. 22, noon to 5:30 p.m. For age 8 and older. "Drop-in Crafts: Pop-Up Cards," Dec. 23, 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. For age 8 and older. 205 Telegraph Ave. (510) 597-5049. Free. Oakland. (510) 238-3134.

**Oakland Ballet** — "Nutcracker" choreography by Ronn Guidi, closing Dec. 24. Accompanied by the Oakland East Bay Symphony. Michael Morgan conducting. The beloved ballet is about a young girl who receives a Nutcracker doll for Christmas and dreams it becomes a handsome prince who takes her to the Land of the Sugar Plum Fairy. Sweet Dreams Parties, Dec. 23 and Dec. 24. Following the performance. \$8. \$7 to \$31. Dec. 22, 7 p.m.; Dec. 23, 2 p.m.; Dec. 24, 11 a.m. Paramount Theatre, 2025 Broadway, Oakland. (510) 762-2277 or (415) 776-1999. **Ashkenaz** — Trance Mission, Dec. 22, 9:30 p.m. \$10. Warsaw, George and The Wonders, KGB, DJ Jahbonz, Dec. 23, 9 p.m. \$10. The Soukous Stars, Dec. 24, 9 p.m. \$10. Surco Nuevo, Dec. 29, 9:30 p.m. \$11. Legion Of Mary, New Monsoon, Dec. 30, 9 p.m. \$10. New Year's Eve Party, Dec. 31, 8 p.m. Featuring Vassili and Maria Bebelevok, Edessa, Anoush, Joe Finn. \$12. 1317 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. (510) 525-5099. **Blakes** — Most Chill Slackmob, Psychokinetics, Dec. 22, \$7. Sol Americano, The Spectors, Dec. 23, \$5. The Blue Monday Jam featuring The Steve Gannon Band, Dec. 25, \$3. Ascension, Dec. 26, \$5. Len Patterson Trio, Dec. 27, \$3. Beatdown hosted by DJs Delon, Addi, and Yamu, Dec. 28, \$5. Tangi, Funkinamicon, Dec. 29, \$5. Felonious, Dec. 30, \$5. New Year's Eve Dance Party, Dec. 31. For age 18 and older. Music at 9:30 p.m. 2367 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley. (510) 848-0886. **Cato's Ale House** — Jimbo Trout and the Fish People, Dec. 23. Pinchdods, Dec. 27. Backstep, Dec. 30. Shows at 8 p.m. 3891 Piedmont Ave., Oakland. (510) 655-3349. **Ell's Mile High Club** — Bolden and Birdleg, Dec. 22. J.J. Malone, Dec. 23. Little Johnny and the Giants, Dec. 29. Carlos Zalcida, Dec. 30. 3629 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Oakland. (510) 655-6661. **Freight And Salvage** — "Freight Holiday Revue," Dec. 22. Featuring Laurie Lewis, Tom Rozum, the Kathy Kallick band, Street Sounds, Brittany and Natalie Haas. \$15.50 to \$16.50. We Be 4, Dec. 23. \$16.50 to \$17.50. Peppino D'Agostino, Dec. 29. \$15.50 to \$16.50. Oak, Ash and Thorn, Dec. 30. \$15.50 to \$16.50. New Year's Eve Biggrass Bash, Dec. 31, 8 p.m. With music by High Country plus special guests Jim Nunally, Bill Evans and Eric Thomas. \$18.50 to \$19.50. Music at 8 p.m. unless otherwise noted. 1111 Addison St., Berkeley. (510) 548-1761 or (510) 762-BASS or [www.thefreight.org](http://www.thefreight.org)

**Holy Names College** — Oakland Interfaith Youth Gospel Choir, Rahsaan Ellison conducting, Dec. 23, 7 p.m. The 4th annual Christmas concert. \$15 to \$20. Regents' Theatre, Valley Center for Performing Arts, 3500 Mountain Blvd., Oakland. (510) 848-3938. **Kimball's East** — Freddie Jackson, Dec. 28 through

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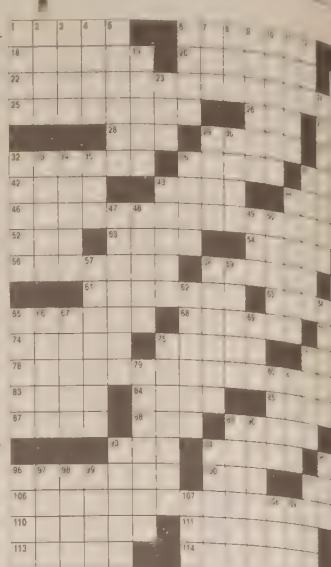
## NEW YORK TIMES MAGAZINE CROSSWORD PUZZLE

### ABOUT THAT FRUITCAKE

By FRANCES HANSEN / Edited by WILL SHORTZ

**ACROSS**  
1 Mountain cats  
6 Haitian dictator's nickname  
13 Site of thousands of flowers  
18 Peace in the Mideast?  
20 United way?  
21 Little gander  
22 Start of a verse about holiday fruitcake  
25 1931 sudser about a washed-up prizefighter  
26 Seurat's "\_\_\_ Baignade"  
27 Like some pitches  
28 See 95-Down  
29 Do  
31 Literary monogram  
32 Small piano  
36 "A good servant but a bad master": Bacon  
37 38-Across's milieu  
38 Junk, e.g.  
42 Brown bagger  
43 Unhappy expression  
44 Henley crew  
45 Movie theater  
46 More about that fruitcake  
52 Luau fare  
53 Cartoon frames  
54 Pakistan's chief river  
55 Uninspiring talk  
56 Eminence  
58 Tee-hee  
60 Chic  
61 Parallel  
63 Wasn't paid up at the bar  
65 Sanction  
68 Cloisonné coating  
70 English class activity  
74 Mosque priests  
75 Newsreel pioneer Charles  
76 Embellish  
77 Coroner's abbr.  
78 Yet more about that fruitcake  
83 Its playing fields are famous  
84 They're black for witches  
85 Oriental au pair  
86 \_\_\_ doble (two-step dance)  
87 Last word of "For He's a Jolly Good Fellow"  
88 Ref's decision  
89 Theatrical backdrop  
91 Paint basecoat  
93 Map abbr.  
94 Inclination  
95 Barrett of Pink Floyd  
96 Adult's cry in a children's game  
100 Kind of observatory: Abbr.  
101 Parts of Middle Earth

**DOWN**  
1 "Hey, you"  
2 Slip acknowledgment  
3 "If He Walked Into My Life" musical  
4 Novelist Waugh  
5 She had a choice in literature  
6 "Hair" producer, 1967  
7 Be in bed, maybe  
8 Grand \_\_\_ ("Evangeline" setting)  
41 "Our Gang" dog  
43 "Moby-Dick" captain  
10 Like lacework  
11 Pleading to the ear  
44 Baptism of fire  
47 Eye doctor  
48 Have coming  
49 Toned  
50 \_\_\_-temps (meanwhile, in Metz)  
51 King nicknamed "Longshanks"  
57 Name in old politics  
16 Parietal cell secretion  
58 Extra innings  
17 Block of Brie?  
19 Not accidental  
21 Paprika-seasoned stew  
23 Meditation class chorus  
24 Bull session participants?  
29 Really come down  
30 Pay one's share, with "up"  
32 Gives and takes  
33 Vinifera variety  
34 It has 25 states  
35 1 and 66: Abbr.  
36 Barbers' challenges  
37 General Motors division  
38 Ancient symbols of resurrection  
39 Hand a line to, say  
40 How to sign a contract  
41 "Our Gang" dog  
43 "Moby-Dick" captain  
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## Events

FROM PAGE C6

**The Big Fat Year-End Kise Off Comedy Show VIII** Dec. 26 and Dec. 31, 7:30 p.m. A show starring Bill Duvall and Johnny Steele with special guests Debi Duvall, Steven Korman and Michael Bossler. Tickets: \$10. Tickets available at the 14th Street Victorian Museum building, the site of the original museum. Free admission: \$2 guided tour. Monday through Saturday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. 1034 14th St., Oakland. (510) 763-0141.

**The 11th Annual New Year's Eve "Black Comedy Explosion"** — Dec. 31, 7:30 p.m. Featuring D.L. Haggerty, star of "The Kings of Comedy" and actor in the show "The Highways." 1750 So. 355. Paramount Theatre, 2020 Broadway, Oakland. (510) 435-6400 or (510) 444-TIXS or (415) 421-TIXS or www.sfx.com

**Comedy East** — Live Comedy, Thursday, 7 p.m. \$10 cover. Embassy Public Market, 5800 Shellmound St., Emeryville. (510) 658-2553 or (510) 762-BASS or www.kmballs.com

**Victorian Museum of Arts** — A museum specializing in the art and history of Africa. The collection, which was on display in the museum's Jack London Village gallery, has been incorporated with the material in the 14th Street Victorian Museum building, the site of the original museum. Free admission: \$2 guided tour. Monday through Saturday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. 1034 14th St., Oakland. (510) 763-0141.

**Children's Museum** — A museum especially for children ages 7 and younger. Highlights include "WaterWorks," an area with unusual water toys, an Infant Time for babies, a garden especially for toddlers, a child-scale grocery store and cafe, and a costume shop and stage for junior thespians. The museum also features a toy lending library.

**EXHIBIT** — "Back to the Farm," open-ended. This interactive exhibit gives children the chance to wiggle through tunnels like an earthworm, go into a mirrored fish pond, don farm animal costumes, ride on a John Deere tractor and more. Ages: \$6 children age 7 and under; \$3 for each additional child age 7 and under. Monday and Wednesday, 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.; Tuesday and Friday, 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Thursday, 9:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Kirtledge Street and Shattuck Avenue, Berkeley. (510) 847-1111 or www.habitat.org

**Chabot Space and Science Center** — A state-of-the-art facility unifying science education activities around astronomy. **ONGOING EXHIBITS** — "Our Place in the Universe," ongoing. A walking tour of the universe using 3-D technologies and featuring the Hologlobe, on permanent loan from the Smithsonian Institution.

"Mystical Landscapes: Sculpting the Solar System," ongoing. Wander through a room of swirling atmospheres, bubbling calderas, and a sea of clouds in this exhibit of interactive sculptures by artist Ned Kahn.

"History of California Astronomy 1850-1950: Observatories, Telescope Makers and their Instruments," ongoing. Explore California's astronomical history through a display of telescopes, artifacts, and the histories of their makers, on loan from the Smithsonian Institution.

"The Origin and Meaning of Meteorites," ongoing. A mural by artists Jay Day and B.E. Johnson, accompanied by a case of meteorite samples.

"Visions of the Universe," ongoing. An exhibit of astronomical paintings by Joe Tucciarone, accompanied by images from the Hubble Space Telescope and the Anglo-Australian Observatory. International Space Station HAB-LAB, ongoing. Walk through a full-sized depiction of the International Space Station's laboratory and living modules.

**PLANETARIUM** — Featuring one of the most advanced star projectors on the world.

"The Soul of Night." A journey for

**WHALE WATCH!** Gray Whales/Dolphins Gift Certificates (online or call) 3-day trip, led by Marine Biologist Monterey Bay Whale Watch. Call free 1-866-GOWHALES (866-469-4253)

www.gowhales.com

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Rose Resnick Light House for the Blind and Visually Impaired

the mind and spirit with a tour of the heavens and the Milky Way as well as a look at the wonders of space and time. Tuesday through Friday, 2 p.m. and 4 p.m.; Saturday, 11 a.m., noon, 1 p.m., 2 p.m. and 3 p.m.; Sunday, 1 p.m., 2 p.m., 3 p.m. and 4 p.m.

"The Sky Tonight." A look at the current stars, constellations, and planets intruding Jupiter and Saturn, the Andromeda Galaxy, and the Milky Way. Friday and Saturday, 7:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m.

\$8.75 general; \$6.50 seniors and children. **TEN MEGADOME SCIENCE THEATER** — A 70-foot dome-screen auditorium.

"Solarmax." Live images of the sun and footage from around the world of solar observatories of the past, present, and future telling of humankind's struggle to understand the sun. Saturday, 10:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m., 1:30 p.m., 2:30 p.m., 3:30 p.m. and 4:30 p.m.; Sunday, 12:30 p.m., 1:30 p.m., 2:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m.

"Amazing Journeys." Experience some of nature's most incredible spectacles as millions of creatures undertake extraordinary journeys of survival. Friday and Saturday, 7:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m.

"To Be An Astronaut." Venture inside the gates of NASA to experience the rigors of astronaut training. Tuesday through Friday, 10:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m.

\$8.75 general; \$6.50 seniors and children. **OBSERVATORY COMPLEX** — Explore the night sky with refractor telescopes. Friday and Saturday, 7 p.m. to 9:45 p.m.

\$8 general; \$5.50 seniors and children; free children under age 3; \$4 parking. Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sunday, noon to 5 p.m. 10000 Skyline Blvd., Oakland. (510) 336-7300 or www.chabotspace.org

**Lawrence Hall Of Science** — "In The Dark," through Jan. 15. This exhibit sheds light on the nocturnal forest, desert and swamp, a limestone cave, the deep sea, and the dark-of-night underground of an urban backyard.

"ChemMystery," through Jan. 1. Learn the step-by-step scientific process to solve a mystery. "Math Rules!" ongoing exhibit. A math exhibit of hands-on problem-solving stations, each with a different mathematical challenge. Make mathematical ice-cream cones, use blocks to build three dimensional structures, make dodecahedron pies from a variety of mathematical shapes and stretch mathematical thinking.

"Within the Human Brain," ongoing installation. Visitors test their cranial nerves, play skeeball, master mazes, match musical tones and construct stories inside a simulated "rat cage" of learning experiments. "Laser: The Light Fantastic," ongoing exhibit. Make a laser light show, work a supermarket-style laser, examine holograms and stop a laser beam barehanded.

"1492: Two Worlds of Science," ongoing exhibit. Explore European and Native American science and technology at the time of Columbus's voyage, through activities with number systems, navigation tools, map making, computer games and a replica of the rocking deck of the Nina.

**FAMILY HOLIDAY PROGRAMS** — "A Spirited Celebration of Kwanzaa with Awele Makeba," Dec. 26, 1 p.m. Featuring tales and songs from African and African-American history, culture, and folklore celebrating the seven principles of Kwanzaa.

"Magic Mike," Dec. 27, noon and 1:30 p.m. A performance of dazzling special effects, magic, juggling, ventriloquism, and outrageous comedy.

"Season of Lights," Dec. 28, 1 p.m. The Imagination Company brings world winter celebrations to life and highlights the significance of light to several cultures.

"Earthcapades," Dec. 29, 1 p.m.

Hearty and Lissin blend storytelling, juggling, acrobatics, and more to entertain and teach about saving the environment.

"Bats of the World," Dec. 30, 1 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. Maggie Hooper of the California Bat Conservation Fund shows slides, introduces three live bats, and answer questions about these animals.

"Gary Lapow's Light Up the Lights!" Dec. 31, 1 p.m. A performance of traditional holiday songs from around the world celebrating Las Posadas, Kwanzaa, Hanukkah, and Christmas.

**SPECIAL EVENTS** — "Deep Dark Secrets Demonstrations," through Jan. 14. Find out how creatures who live in the dark use their senses to get information about their world. In conjunction with the "In The Dark" exhibit. Saturday and Sunday, noon, 1 p.m., 2 p.m. and 3 p.m.

**FAMILY WORKSHOPS** — Registration is required and each child must be accompanied by an adult. (510) 642-5134

**ONGOING PROGRAMS** — Free after museum admission. **Biology Discovery Lab**, ongoing. In the renovated Biology Lab visitors may hold and observe gentle animals. Saturday, Sunday and Holidays, 1:30 p.m. to 4 p.m.; Dec. 22 and Dec. 26, 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.; CLOSED DEC. 24 AND DEC. 25.

**Computer Lab**, ongoing. A chance for children to explore age-appropriate software and the Internet. For children age 5 and up accompanied by an adult. Saturday, 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

**Saturday Night Stargazing**, ongoing. View the night sky through astronomical telescopes. First and Third Saturdays of each month, 8 p.m. to 10 p.m.

**HOLT PLANETARIUM** — No knowledge of astronomy is required for these shows. Programs are recommended for age 8 and up; children under age 6 will not be admitted. \$2 in addition to regular museum admission.

"Stonehenge," through Dec. 31. Saturday, Sunday and Holidays, 1 p.m. and 2 p.m. CLOSED DEC. 24 AND DEC. 25.

"Constellations Tonight," ongoing. Using a simple star map, learn to identify the most prominent constellations for the season in the planetarium sky. Daily, 3:30 p.m.

\$7 general; \$5 seniors, students, disabled, and youths age 7 to 18; \$3 children age 3 to 5; free children age 2 and younger. Daily, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Dec. 24, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. CLOSED DEC. 25. Centennial Blvd., University of California, Berkeley. (510) 642-5132 or www.lawrencehallscience.org

**Grand Lake Oakland Certified Farmers Market** — Ongoing. A chance to buy local organic produce and baked goods. Free. Saturday, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. MacArthur Boulevard and Grand Avenue, Oakland. (415) 456-FARM or (800) 897-FARM

**Jack London Square Farmers Market** — Ongoing. A chance to buy fresh fruits and vegetables, cut flowers, baked goods, and more. Free. Sunday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Jack London Square, foot of Broadway, Oakland. (510) 814-6000 or www.jacklondonsquare.com

**Judah I. Magnes museum** — Winning Photographs: Second Annual Richard Nagler Competition of the Magnes Museum for Excellence in Jewish Photography, through February. An exhibit of works by photographers from the United States and Israel. "Telling Time: To Everything There is a Season," through May 2002. An exhibit structured around the seasons of the year and the seasons of life with objects ranging from the sacred and the secular, to the provocative and the whimsical. Highlights from Jewish and other cultures such as Tibetan and Mexican-American include treasures from ceremonial and folk art, rare books and manuscripts, contemporary and traditional fine art, video, photography and cultural kitsch. Free. Sunday through Thursday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. 2911 Russell St., Berkeley. (510) 549-6950

**Mills College Art Museum** — "Tom Holland: The First Five Years' Work," closing Dec. 23. An exhibit highlighting Holland's expressionistic paintings and three-dimensional painted constructions from 1961-66. Free. Tuesday through Saturday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Sunday, noon to 4 p.m. 5000 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland. (510) 430-2164 or (510) 430-

3250

**The Oakland Museum of California**

"The Rustler Ranch Mastodon Project," through June. Museum preparators are unearthing a mastodon skeleton, discovered at Rustler Ranch in northeastern California, in full view of the public. The nearly complete fossil skeleton of the mastodon was carved out of the ground and brought in chunks to the museum where preparators are removing the bones from the surrounding dirt. During museum weekend hours between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m., visitors can talk with preparators and volunteers as they expose the bones in preparation for making molds and cast of the skeleton. Adjoining the work area are specimens and interpretive materials depicting mastodon, mammoth and other Pleistocene (Ice Age) species. In the Natural Sciences Gallery

Fired by Ideals: Arequipa Pottery and the Arts and Crafts Movement, through April 29. An exhibit of pottery produced at the Arequipa Sanatorium in Marin County during the years 1911-1918.

"Secret World of the Forbidden City Splendors from China's Imperial Palace," through Jan. 24. A major exhibit of art objects, never before exhibited in North America, allowing a rare glimpse of the opulence and heritage of the Chinese Imperial Court under the Qing Dynasty which ruled China from 1644 to 1911. Included are a complete Imperial Throne Room, ceremonial armor, court robes, solid gold dining ware and imperial jewelry. Presented in association with The Palace Museum in Beijing, China. \$13 general; \$10 seniors and students includes an audio guide to the exhibit plus admission to the other exhibitions and galleries at the museum.

"California Species: Biological Art and Illustration," through May 13. A juried exhibition of 60 recent, original works by 46 artists celebrating the diversity of plant and animal species native to California.

**TOURS** — Docent Gallery Tours, Saturday and Sunday, 1:30 p.m.

Art à la Carte, ongoing. Art docents offer a variety of specialized tours focusing on one aspect of the museum's permanent collection.

Wednesday, 12:30 p.m. Free with museum admission.

\$6 general; \$4 seniors and students, free children age 5 and under; second Sundays are free to all. Tuesday through Thursday and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Friday, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Sunday, noon to 5 p.m.; first Friday of the month, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. 1000 Oak St., Oakland. (888) OAK-MUSE or www.museumca.org

**Richmond Museum Of History** Permanent exhibits highlight Richmond's cultural, industrial and architectural legacy.

"Places of Faith and Worship," ongoing. An exhibit documenting the history of the many churches that reflect Richmond's diverse cultures and lifestyles.

Free. Wednesday through Friday and Sunday, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. CLOSED THROUGH JANUARY 2 400 N. Main Ave., Richmond. (510) 235-7387

**UC Berkeley Art Museum** "Tall Landscapes of the Late Ming," through Feb. 18. An exhibit of a selection of paintings of very tall and attenuated, sometimes heaped and piled mountain landscapes.

"Minimalism: Then and Now," through May 27. A survey of major works by Minimal artists of the 1960s and 70s as well as by artists of later generations who present new looks at such aesthetic concerns.

"Gottardo Piazzoni and the California Landscape," through May 27. An exhibit of California landscapes featuring the work of Piazzoni and other artists.

"The Further Eye: Painting of India through Feb. 18. An exhibit illustrating the convention of the 'further eye,' an important landmark of early Indian painting.

"Tacta Dean/MATRIX 189: Banewi" through Jan. 28. A 16mm film of the total eclipse of the sun on Aug. 11, 1999.

"Amazons in the Drawing Room: The Art of Romaine Brooks," through Jan. 16. A retrospective showcasing the work of the gay heiress and American expatriate.

"Continuous Replay: The Photographs of Arne Zane," through Jan. 8. An exhibit revisiting Zane's work and providing an insight into

See EVENTS, Page C8

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# Calendar

Submissions to the Community Calendar must be received Thursdays one week prior to publication. Listings are on a space-available basis.

## Children

**The Buddy Club** presents Derique as "The Classy Clown" on Sunday, Jan. 7, 11 a.m. to noon at the Albany Community Center Theater, 1249 Marin Ave., Albany. The shows are targeted for kids ages 2 through 12 and their parents and include audience participation. Limited unserved tickets are sold at the door. Call 236-SHOW for tickets, party reservations and show information.

**Interactive Mystery** at Berkeley Public Library's West Branch, 1125 University Ave., is on Thursday, Dec. 28, 7 p.m. The public can enter the action by interviewing the suspects and finding the physical evidence that led to the victim's demise. Interactive Mysteries are

written and performed by Berkeley teens. This free program is sixth of a series and is suggested for ages 12 through adult. Call 649-3926 for more information, or leave a message at 644-6100 extension 313.

**Fall 2000 registration** for Albany Preschool, 850 Masonic Ave., takes place on Saturday, Jan. 27 from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. Applications will be taken for the morning and afternoon programs in the order they are received. Priority is given to Albany residents. There is a \$25 non-refundable application fee to be paid at the time of registration. For more information, contact the preschool at 527-6403.

**The City of El Cerrito**, offers special programs for children from 22 months to five years of age. These programs are designed to offer parents an opportunity to leave their pre-school children in a safe atmosphere under qualified su-

pervision. The program for ages 22 months to 3-1/2 years meets Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to noon. Registration is continuous as long as space is available. Located at 7007 Mooser Lane. For more information, call Julie, 215-4371.

**Luna Kids Dance (LKD)** offers dance and acting classes for children and teens ages 3-17 in a fun and supportive environment. Locations: Albany Community Center, 1249 Marin Ave.; El Cerrito, Contra Costa Civic Theater, 951 Permona Ave.; Oakland, Glenview Performing Arts Center, 1318 Glenfield Ave. and Montclair Women's Cultural Arts Club, 1650 Mountain Blvd. For more information, call the LKD central office at 530-4113.

**LGBTQ Parent and Prospective Parent** groups meet the first Saturday of the month 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. with current childcare. All groups meet at

the Pacific Center at 2712 Telegraph Ave. In Berkeley. Donations are requested, but not required. For information or to RSVP, contact Anna at familyprogram@yahoo.com or 415-789-8560 classes.

**The Ann Martin Children's Center** offers eight "Support Groups For Mothers," sessions for first time mothers and babies their babies under 5 months. Experienced facilitator. For information: 524-0821

**Lawrence Hall of Science**, UC Berkeley's public science museum and center for K-12 science and math education offers three residential summer science camps, including two camps held at actual University of California field research stations; and three Sierra backpacking summer science camps. Each camp emphasizes fun outdoor science explorations through hands-on, inquiry-based activities, as well as lots of tradi-

tional camp fun. Each camp has a unique theme, and is designed for a specific age group. Call 642-2275 or e-mail to: lshinfo@uclink.berkeley.edu. To register, call 642-5134.

**"Theater Rats,"** Julie Morgan's kid's theater camp program, offers swimming, singing, dancing, acting, and field games as some of its exciting activities. The camp is a two-week session for kids 6-14. Call 883-7023 for additional information.

## Health

**Charcot Marie Tooth (CMT)** support group meets Saturdays bimonthly at West Berkeley Library, 1125 University Ave. from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. CMT is a neuropathic disorder. Call 524-3506 for additional information.

**YWCA Health and Community Education**; drop in classes in dance, fitness, yoga, martial arts and more; University

## Events

### FROM PAGE C7

the ways in which two different modes of expression, dance and photography, intersect and inform each other.

**"Face of the Buddha: Sculpture from India, China, Japan, and Southeast Asia,"** through 2003. This changing exhibit features graceful stone figures from China on long-term loan from the Arthur M. Sackler Foundation in New York together with small Buddhist sculptures.

**"Hans Hoffmann,"** open-ended. An exhibit of paintings by Hoffmann which emphasizes two experimental methods the artist employed: the introduction of slabs or rectangles of highly saturated colors and the use of large areas of black paint juxtaposed with intense oranges, greens and yellows to simulate the effect of nature at its most unbridled.

**"Images and Ideas: The Collection in Focus,"** open-ended. The museum periodically displays some of its permanent collection in a context meant to highlight some aspect of the objects. The three areas of focus for this exhibit are Renaissance art, 19th and 20th-century American art and paintings from 1940 to the present.

### THE ASIAN GALLERIES —

**"Art of the Sung: Court and Monastery,"** open-ended. A display of early Chinese works from the permanent collection.

**"Chinese Ceramics and Bronzes: The First 3,000 Years,"** open-ended.

**"Works on Extended Loan from Warren King,"** open-ended.

**"Three Towers of Han,"** open-ended. TOURS —

**Docent Tours**, ongoing. A guided tour of current exhibits. Thursday, 12:15 p.m.; Sunday, 2 p.m. Free with admission.

**\$6 general; \$4 seniors and students**

age 12 to 18; free children age 12 and under; free Thursday, 11 a.m. to noon and 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. Wednesday, Friday through Sunday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Thursday, 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. 2626 Bancroft Way, Berkeley. (510) 642-0808.

### UC Berkeley Museum Of Paleontology —

**"Tyrannosaurus Rex,"** ongoing. A 20-foot tall, 40-foot long replica of the fearsome dinosaur. The replica is made from casts of bones of the most complete T. Rex skeleton yet excavated. When unearthed in Montana, the bones were all lying in place with only a small piece of the tailbone missing.

**"Pteranodon,"** ongoing. A suspended skeleton of a flying reptile with a wingspan of 22 to 23 feet. The Pteranodon lived at the same time as the dinosaurs.

**California Fossils Exhibit**, ongoing. An exhibit of some of the fossils which have been excavated in California.

Free, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Lobby, Valley Life Sciences Building, University of

California, Berkeley. (510) 642-1821.

### UC Berkeley Phoebe Hearst Museum Of Anthropology —

**"The Art of Research: Nelson Graburn and the Aesthetics of Inuit Sculpture,"** through June 30. An exhibit of soapstone carvings and photographs.

**"Sites Along the Nile: Rescuing Ancient Egypt,"** through June 30. A chronological overview of the cultural development of Ancient Egypt from the Pre-dynastic through the Coptic Period, a time span of approximately 5000 years.

**"Tzintzuntzan, Mexico: Photographs by George Foster,"** through June 30. A body of photographs with images taken over more than half a century by Foster. The individuals in his photographs are shown engaged in their daily rituals of life such as work, ceremonies and fiestas.

**"Yoruba Divination: Selections from the Collections of William and Berta Bascom,"** through June 30. The exhibit focuses on the aims and techniques of Ifa divination featuring a wide selection of the basic Ifa divination objects.

### PERMANENT EXHIBITS —

**"Approaching a Century of Anthropology: The Phoebe Hearst Museum,"** open-ended. This new permanent installation will introduce visitors to major topics in the museum's history, including the role of Phoebe Apperson Hearst as the museum's patron, as well as the relationship of anthropologists Alfred Kroeber and Robert Lowie to

the museum.

**"Ishi and the Invention of Yahi Culture,"** ongoing. This exhibit documents the culture of the Yahi Indians of California as described and demonstrated from 1911 to 1916 by Ishi, the last surviving member of the tribe.

**Lunchtime Gallery Talks**, Thursday, 12:15 p.m. Free.

**\$2 general; \$1 seniors; \$0.50 children** age 17 and under; free on Thursdays. Wednesday through Sunday, 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Kroeber Hall, Bancroft Way and College Avenue, Berkeley. (510) 643-7648 or [www.qal.berkeley.edu/hearst/](http://www.qal.berkeley.edu/hearst/)

**USS Hornet Museum** — Come aboard the USS Hornet, a World War II aircraft carrier that has been converted into a floating museum. The Hornet, launched in 1943, is 899 feet long and 27 stories high. During World War II she was never hit by an enemy strike or plane and holds the Navy record for number of enemy planes shot down in a week. In 1969 the Hornet recovered the Apollo 11 space capsule containing the first men to walk on the moon, and later recovered Apollo 12. In 1991 the Hornet was designated a National Historic Landmark and is now docked at the same pier she sailed from in 1944. Today, visitors can tour the massive ship, view World War II-era warplanes and experience a simulated aircraft launch from the carrier's deck. More exhibits will be added over the next few years. "Flight Deck Fun," ongoing. A former Landing Signal Officer will show

children how to bring in a fighter plane for a landing on the deck, then let them try the signals themselves. Times vary. Free with admission.

### SPECIAL EVENT —

**"New Year's Eve 2000,"** Dec. 31, 7 p.m. to 1 a.m. Dance into the New Year to the music of the Legends of Swing Orchestra, Gary Toll conducting, playing a "Tribute to Jimmy Dorsey" with vocals by Camilla. The evening will be filled with music, dancing on two huge dance floors on the heated and enclosed hangar deck of the ship. Festivities include hats and party favors, a midnight countdown and a champagne toast. Premium reserved seating with dinner will also be available. Formal attire suggested and period costumes welcome. Proceeds from the event go to the restoration and preservation of the USS Hornet, a national Historic Landmark.

**7 p.m. to 9 p.m.:** Cocktails, dinner, dance lessons and special entertainment by the swing dance troupe "Dance Flight." Reservations required for dinner.

**9 p.m. to 1 a.m.:** Dancing, cash bar, hors d'oeuvre and dessert concession.

**\$75 per person** dancing only; \$100 per person after Dec. 28; \$125 per person dinner and dancing.

**FERRY** — services suspended for the winter. The Red and White Fleet offers cruises over to the USS Hornet from San Francisco. Price includes admission to the USS Hornet. Board at Pier 43 1/2 at the foot of Taylor Street. Daily, 10 a.m.,

## Community

North Berkeley

meets and a

Community

group meets

and a two-week

session for

additional information

Health

Charcot Marie Tooth (CMT)

support group

meets Saturdays

bimonthly at

West Berkeley Library

1125 University

Ave. from 2 p.m.

to 4 p.m. CMT is

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Call 524-3506 for

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YWCA Health and Community Education

drop in classes

in dance, fitness,

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and more; University

of California

field research

stations; and three

Sierra backpacking

summer science

camps. Each camp

emphasizes fun

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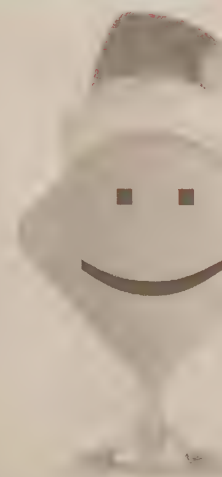
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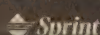


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# Calendar

FROM PAGE C8

Kravitz and several players to be named later. Tickets: \$15. Call CBON at 925-798-1300 for more information.

**Lawrence Hall of Science.** UC Berkeley's Family Science Center opens its "Winter Holiday Family Celebration Week" on Tuesday, Dec. 26, 1 p.m., with storyteller Awele Makoba as she shares tales and a capella songs celebrating the seven principles of Kwanzaa. The celebration continues through Dec. 31 with Magic Mike performing on Wednesday, Dec. 27, noon and 1:30 p.m.; The Imagination Company and "Season of Lights" on Thursday, Dec. 28 at 1 p.m.; "Earthcapades" on Friday, Dec. 29, 1 p.m. and "Bats of the World" on Saturday, Dec. 30, 1 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. Singer Gary Lapow's concludes the celebration with "Light Up the Lights" on Sunday, Dec. 31, 1 p.m. For more information, call 642-5134.

**The 17th annual Telegraph Avenue Holiday Street Fair** runs for three more days: Friday, Dec. 22, Saturday, Dec. 23 and Sunday, Dec. 24. The fair is located on Telegraph Avenue between Bancroft Way and Dwight Way. More than 200 street artists, merchants, community groups will fill four blocks of Telegraph Avenue when it is closed to traffic. Hours are 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

**Turning Point at the YWCA.** 2600 Bancroft Way, sponsors Resume Clinics on Tuesday afternoons, or by appointment. To sign up for an appointment, leave a message several days before you would like to meet. Anne Levine Ph.D. has a background in Design and Education. For the past 10 years, she has assisted in producing numerous resumes as part of her desktop publishing business. Call 848-6370 for additional information.

**Marion Rosen,** founder of Rosen Method bodywork and movement, presents the Method through lecture, demonstration, and experiential practice. Rosen is joined in the presentation by Sara Webb, Senior Teacher of Rosen Method bodywork. Location: Feldenkrais Resources, 830 Bancroft Way. Admission: \$10. Reservations are strongly recommended. For more information or to make a reservation, contact Abby Paige, at 845-6606.

**Berkeley's Office of Emergency Services** presents a new series of free Community Emergency Response Training (CERT) classes. The classes give basic, practical information, including hands-on training in fire suppression, light search and rescue, and disaster first aid. All classes are held at the fire department's Emergency Operations Center, 997 Cedar St. The classes are open to everyone, 18 or older, who lives or works in Berkeley. To register, or for more information, call the Office of Emergency Services, 844-8736.

**Berkeley Art Museum, Pacific Film Archive** offers a guided tour of Equal Partner: Men and Women Principals in Contemporary Architectural Practice presented by graduate students from the UC-Berkeley Department of Architecture, College of Environmental Design on Alternating Thursdays at 12:15 p.m. and on Sundays at 2 p.m. For additional information call 642-0808.

**Overeaters Anonymous** meet Fridays at 1:30 PM at the Northbrae Community Church in Berkeley, 941 The Alameda between Solano and Marin avenues, in Room 2—the childcare room—parents

may bring their children. This organization is for individuals who eat compulsively? For further information, call Katherine at 525-5231.

**Toastmasters**, do it now. Stand up and say what you mean. Come practice—Tuesday, noon to 1 p.m. at 700 Heinz Ave. Call 883-6708 for additional information.

**Civil Rights** activists needed. Write the ACLU chapter of Berkeley, Albany, Richmond, and Kensington. P.O. Box 11141, Berkeley, CA, 94701.

**"Work Buddies":** volunteers needed to perform volunteer work with people in early stage Alzheimer's Disease. Minimum six-month commitment, two to three hours per week. Training provided. Contact Nannette Lipton, 644-8292.

**Psychic Healing** clinic; 7 to 9 p.m. Mondays; free clinic at the Academy for Psychic Studies in Berkeley, aura cleansing, stress relief; 1-800-642-9355.

**SMART project;** the Alcohol Research Group in Berkeley is conducting a study to compare the cost and effectiveness of two kinds of substance abuse treatment: medical model day treatment and social model day treatment. By calling 1-888-249-8802 and agreeing to do three interviews, individuals chosen for the study receive free treatment at existing treatment programs.

**The Edible Schoolyard,** an organic gardening and cooking program at Berkeley's King Middle School, seeks volunteers to work with students, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Call 558-1335 for information.

**English-in-Action** lets you make friends from around the world. Volunteer as a conversation partner with a foreign UC scholar/student for one hour a week. YWCA, at Berkeley, Call 643-9716.

**Women's Daytime Drop-in Center** in Berkeley; serving women who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless, needs volunteers. The Center is open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Saturday. Volunteers are needed for morning and afternoon shifts. For more information, call 466-5663.

## Exhibits

**"Life Without Art:** The Hobart Hall Project," is on Friday, Dec. 1, 5-8 p.m. at the Julia Morgan Center for the Arts, 2640 College Ave. The evening includes a special reception, exhibits, music and performance. Activities begin by touring the renovation, restoration and modernization of the hall. Call 841-1905, ext. 222 for more information.

**The John F. Kennedy University Arts Annex,** 2956 San Pablo Ave., continues its "Fourth Annual Faculty Exhibition," through Jan. 4. The exhibit includes paintings by F. Bogzaran, M. Grady, L. Hyams, F. Martin, J. Morgan, and C. Peirano. Cost: free. Hours: Monday through Friday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Call 649-0499 for more information.

**ACCI Gallery** exhibits a Celebration of Light, Holiday 2000, through Dec. 31 featuring the members of ACCI and guest artists. 1652 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley.

**Kala Gallery** features an exhibit of more than 60 artists affiliated with the gallery through Tuesday, Jan. 16, 2001. 1060 Heinz Ave., Berkeley near Ashby and San Pablo avenues. Call 549-2977.

**The Fig Tree Gallery,** 2599 Eighth St. #42, presents "The Annual Holiday Group Show and Sale" through Dec. 30. The exhibit features paintings, sculpture and mixed media by 25 East Bay artists. Hours: Thursdays through

Sundays, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., and by appointment. Call 540-7843 for appointments. Call Bonnie Mager, 628-7907, for more information.

**The Cecile Moenchek Gallery,** 1809 D Fourth St., presents an exhibition entitled "The Gift of Art: Small Works," new works by Stuart Allen, Dina Angel-Wing, Hedi Desuyo, Jennifer Kent, Ines Kramer, Lucy Matzger, Michael Shemchuk, and Seiko Tachibana. The show runs through Jan. 14, Wednesday through Saturday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m., and Sundays, noon-5 p.m. For more information, call 549-1018.

**The UC Berkeley Art Museum,** 2626 Bancroft Way, presents the exhibit "Amazons in the Drawing Room: The Art of Romaine Brooks," through Jan. 16. For more information, call 642-0808 or visit the Web site at [www.bampfa.berkeley.edu](http://www.bampfa.berkeley.edu).

**The City of El Cerrito** presents Open Clay Studio ongoing classes on Mondays, 7-9 p.m. Experience with clay is helpful, but not necessary. Opportunities will be provided for students to explore areas of clay work. Demonstrations and instruction will be provided on requests. Admission: \$7.50 residents, \$9.38 nonresidents. The location: Tassajara Pottery Center, 2575 Tassajara Boulevard. For more information, call Judie at 215-4371.

**Alta Bates Medical Center** presents work by members of the California Watercolor Association at its Community Art Gallery, 2450 Ashby Ave., Berkeley. The gallery is in the main corridor to the left of the information desk and main entrance. Call 204-4444 for additional information.

**New Pieces Gallery** is located on Solano Avenue. New Pieces is the only gallery which shows quilts and soft cloth sculptures and dolls exclusively. The gallery is open during store business hours: Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Sunday Noon to 5 p.m. except major holidays. Details: 527-6779.

## Literary Events

**Marin author Malcolm E. Barker** will sign copies of the newly revised and expanded edition of his classic book "Bummer & Lazarus, San Francisco's Famous Dogs," on Friday, Dec. 22, 11 a.m. at George Shop, 1829 Fourth St. The two cunning canines roamed San Francisco in the 1860s, and their story is told through actual newspaper accounts. Call 644-1033 for more information.

**The Reading Edge** is available for public use at the Berkeley Public Library, 2121 Alston Way. This computer scans printed text and reads it back aloud with a synthesized voice. It's available for anyone with a disability that requires its use to access print material. Users must complete a brief training session before using the Reading Edge; after that, reservations are needed. Call the Reference Desk at 644-6648 to set up a training session.

## Meetings

**Queer & Young Professionals Group** at the Pacific Center, 2712 Telegraph Ave., meet on the first Friday of every month

8-10 p.m. The next meeting is Friday, Dec. 1. \$5-10 donation requested. No one turned away for lack of funds. Call 548-2863 for more information.

**The California Retired Teachers Association,** West Contra Costa Division #58, meet for lunch at noon Jan. 2, at St. Luke's Methodist Church, 3200 Barrett Ave., Richmond. The program features slides comparing the lives of Agatha Christie and Daphne DuMaurier, presented by Jackie Hetman. Lunch cost: \$9. Call 234-3046 by Dec. 29 for luncheon reservations.

**Berkeley Camera Club** meet Tuesdays, 7:30 p.m. at Northbrae Community Church, 341 The Alameda. Share your slides and prints and learn what other photographers are doing. Monthly field trips. Call Wade at 531-8664 for more information.

**The YWCA** offers free orientations of its Turning Point Career Center. The orientations outline the resources available to the public and the great variety of workshops held every Tuesday, 1:30 p.m. The Turning Point Career Center is located at 2600 Bancroft Way. For more information, call 848-6370.

**The Berkeley Avatar Metaphysics Toastmasters Club** meet on the first and third Thursdays, from 6:15 to 7:30 p.m., at 2515 Hillegass Ave. Public speaking skills and metaphysics come together. For more information, call 869-2547 or 643-7645.

**Berkeley Toastmasters Club** meet monthly, on the first and third Thursdays at 2515 Hillegass Ave. The group specializes in developing its communication and public speaking skills in the field of metaphysics. The group also learn from each other through short speeches. Call Odette Lard at 869-2547 or 643-7645.

**The Kensington Senior Activity Center** meets on Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Arlington Community Church, 52 Arlington Ave. The center's community program of life-long learning is presented by the West Contra Costa Adult School. Attend any class or event you choose. Everyone over 55 is welcome. Call 526-9146 or 547-1969 for additional information.

**The YWCA** offers free orientations every Tuesday at 1:30 p.m. of its Turning Point Career Center, 2600 Bancroft Way. The orientations outline the center's resources and the variety of workshops it offers to the public. For additional information, call 848-6370.

**The Berkeley Camera Club** meets every Tuesday evening, 7:30 p.m. at the Northbrae Community Church, 341 The Alameda, Berkeley. Participants share slides and prints and learn what other photographers are doing. Monthly field trips. Call Wade for information, 531-8664.

**Speak Smart!** Join Beijing Express Toastmasters. The Smart Club Meetings take place each Monday, 6:15 to 7:30 p.m. at Peking Express Restaurant, 2068 Center St. For additional information call 549-9671.

**Toastmasters Meeting:** Stand up and say what you mean. Come practice with us. Every Tuesday, Noon to 1 p.m. at 700 Heinz Ave. Berkeley. Call 883-6708 for additional information.

**Take Pounds Off Sensibly (TOPS)** meets every Thursday evening at the First Baptist Church, Richmond, on Solano below

Arlington. Call Betty Coates 235-0490 for more information.

**Joy of Yiddish:** Yiddish conversation at 1 p.m. at the North Berkeley Senior Center, 1901 Hearst. Call 844-8107 for additional information. The Berkeley Communicators Toastmasters Club meet on the first and third Wednesday of the month from 7:15 to 8:30 a.m. at the Berkeley City Club, 2315 Durant. Details: 524-3765.

**The Berkeley Arthritis Support and Education Group** meets on the second Tuesday of each month (except December) 1 to 2:30 p.m. in the Marfy Auditorium, Herrick Campus, 2001 Dwight Way. Dr. Brian Kaye, a rheumatologist, has treated many patients with various types of arthritis and will be available for questions. For additional information call 204-4503.

**Toastmasters** on Campus meet the second and fourth Wednesday of the month from 6:15 to 7:30 p.m. at the English Language Program Building, 2515 Hillegass. Details: 704-1822.

**Public speaking** skills and metaphysics come together at Avatar Metaphysical Toastmasters. On-going meetings first and third Thursdays, 8:15 to 7:30 p.m., 2515 Hillegass Ave., Call 869-2547 for details.

**Spirituality and Healing.** Voices of Healing Story Circles. Spiritually oriented healing group for people living with life-threatening illness. Meets second Wednesday of each month in North Berkeley. Call 528-1235 for information.

**State Health Toastmasters Club** meet every second, third and fourth Thursday of the month from 12:10 to 1:10 p.m. at the State Health building, 2151 Berkeley Way. Details: 649-7750.

**Higher Alignment:** 7 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. Mondays; fun, informative seminars creating spiritual partnerships; Feldenkres Center, 830 Bancroft Way, Berkeley; (415) 461-5337; \$20.

**Alta Bates Support Groups - Arthritis Support Group** meets the second Tuesday of every month; 1 - 2:30 p.m.; 204-4503. Call for additional special events.

**Overeaters Anonymous,** a 12 step program providing free aid for those with eating problems, meets in Berkeley every Saturday at 8:30 a.m. (newcomers at 8 a.m.) at St. John's Church, 2727 College Ave. and in Richmond every Thursday at 7 p.m. at Kaiser Hospital, 901 Nevin (take Elevator C to the third floor). For further information, call 273-9292.

**TOPS:** 9:30 a.m., Mondays; Take Pounds Off Sensibly, Albany Chapter meets at 960 Stannage St. at Marin; 233-2948 or Karen, 525-6858.

**Toastmasters:** noon - 1 p.m. Tuesdays; stand up and say what you mean; practice with the toastmasters; 700 Heinz Ave., Berkeley; 883-6708.

**Alta Bates Rehabilitation Center** and East Bay Neurology sponsors a free monthly stroke support group. No advance reservations are required, drop-in anytime. The group meets the first Tuesday of each month from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. in the Marfy Auditorium on Herrick Campus, 2001 Dwight way. Berkeley. Details: 204-4503.

## MUSIC

**"Hey Klesmehl!"** Festival is on Saturday,

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# Rejoice and Celebrate ... Behold a Child is born



## Pipe organs resound with Christmas music

Eugene H. Habegger  
The sounds of Christmas almost always include pipe organ music, giving festive and worshipful accompaniment to the celebration of the birth of Jesus.

regarded as one of the world's premier organ builders.

At 61, Brombaugh has built organs that can be found in 27 states as well as in Europe and Canada. That number also includes the organ in his home congregation, Central Lutheran. He is a fierce proponent of the tracker-action organ in which the air from the bellows is released mechanically instead of electrically into the pipes to create the desired sound. To him the tracker action, which dates from the Middle Ages, helps produce a special timbre which can imitate the pure and clear voice of a pre-adolescent youngster.

The Bible reminds us in the second

## Interesting Christmas customs from around the world

What does a witch on a broomstick have to do with Christmas? If you're a child living in Italy, she's known as La Befana, and you wait for her to drop the gifts down the chimney on Christmas Eve.

While Christmas customs in other lands may seem unusual to us, remember that most of them were celebrating the holiday long before we were in North America. And lately, our Christmas practices have spread to parts of the world where it was

unknown just decades ago.

For instance, the Japanese use December 25th to visit relatives and plan family get-togethers. Children wear bright kimonos and wait for Uncle Chimney to bring gifts, and everyone enjoys munching on the now-traditional strawberry short cake. Special kinds of sushi and sashimi are prepared for the day along with mochi, a sweet rice cake.

In northern Alaska, the Eskimos celebrate Christmas as a community. Gathering at a central site such as a school gymnasium, they engage in traditional games like leg wrestling, high kicks, and sack pull.

An incredible feast is served, full of savory items like Beluga whale, caribou, walrus and polar bear. For dessert, the tradition calls for fried raisin doughnuts. As there are no fir trees there, a large artificial tree is decorated by the children.

In Mexico, the favored holiday dish is mole pablano, a roasted turkey with a chile and chocolate sauce. The legend states that the recipe dates back to the Aztecs. As a side dish, tamales dulces are served, consisting of cherries, pineapple, raisins and corn flour steamed in corn

husks.

In Oaxaca, a contest is held where artisans carve Christmas and biblical scenes out of radishes, with cash prizes awarded for best of show.

In Sweden, the Christmas season begins early and ends late. December 13 is St. Lucia's Day, and children celebrate by wearing white gowns and a wreath head-dress decorated with lighted candles.

After serving their parents breakfast in bed, they participate in public pageants. Twenty days after Christmas comes Julgrans plundring, a party where children gather around the Christmas tree for one last song and dance, and finish by throwing the tree out a door or window.

One of the friendliest of customs comes from Newfoundland, when during the twelve days of Christmas "mummers" is practiced.

In a tradition that dates to Newfoundland's earliest settlers, spirited revelers dress in outlandish costumes and masks and show up on friend's doorsteps with the cry, "Any mummies allowed here?"

Once inside, the mummies are served cakes and wine, and their hosts attempt to guess who they are. Once identified, the mummies unmask themselves, but stay masked if no one guesses their identity. Often, mummies carry musical instruments, and songs and dances follow them from house to house.

In Spain, Santa doesn't visit at all; instead it's the Three Wise Men who deliver the goods to the children. Unlike their counterparts in other lands, Spanish children must be patient, as the Wise Men don't fill their shoes until the eve of the Epiphany, on January 5th!

You are invited to

## Christmas

at

**Montclair United Methodist Church**  
2162 Mountain Blvd. Oakland 531-8208

**Sunday, December 24**

10 a.m. Morning Celebration  
5 p.m. Christmas Eve  
Candlelight Service for Families

Loving childcare is provided



Come Back! Come Home! Come share the Holiday Season and a renewed spirit of community and stewardship!

**St. Leo the Great Roman Catholic Church**

Piedmont Avenue at Ridgeway (510) 654-6177

**CHRISTMAS EVE (Sunday)**

5:00 pm Eucharistic Liturgy: Family Celebration  
7:30 pm Eucharistic Liturgy with choir

**CHRISTMAS DAY (Monday)**

8:30 pm Eucharistic Liturgy  
11:00 pm Eucharistic Liturgy

**New Year's Day (Monday)**

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God (not a Holy Day of Obligation)

12:10 pm Eucharistic Liturgy

**REGULAR SCHEDULE OF WORSHIP**

Eucharistic Liturgies: Sundays 8:30 am. & 11 am

Weekdays: 12:10 pm Monday to Friday

Saturdays: 8 am and 5 pm Vigil

By bounds and tradition, serving the greater Piedmont area and Piedmont Avenue

A Christmas Musical Extravaganza!

## The Night Before Christmas"

Fun for the whole family!

**Sunday • December 24 • 8:00 pm**



**Christian Cathedral**

Dr. Bebe Patten, Founder-Pastor

2433 Coolidge Avenue • Oakland, CA 94601

(510) 533-8300



Christmas at  
**St John's**

If this birth happen not in me, what does it profit me? What matters is that it shall happen in me."

Meister Eckhart

Christmas Eve, December 24: Regular 10 am Eucharist; 5 pm Family Service with Eucharist and Pageant; 10 pm Christmas Carols; 10:30 pm First Eucharist of Christmas. Christmas Day, December 25: 9:30 am Eucharist. Sunday, December 31: 8 & 10 am Christmas Festival of Lessons and Carols with Eucharist (nursery and Church School 9:45 am)

**St John's Episcopal Church**

1707 Gouldin Road (off Thornhill)

510 339-2200



## Christmas Eve

Sunday, December 24th

5:00 P.M. Children's Christmas Service  
(40 min & geared toward ages 3-10)

10:00 P.M. Lessons & Anthems with violin, flute & handbells

10:30 P.M. Festival Candlelight Service of Holy Communion  
(with carols, handbells and choir.)

**St. Paul Lutheran Church**

1658 Excelsior Ave., Oakland, CA

(510) 530-6333

Visit us at <http://www.jps.net/spluth>



**A Place For You!**

## St. Paul's Episcopal Church

114 Montecito Ave., Oakland  
NEAR HARRISON AND GRAND (510) 843-4314

The Rev. Dr. John H. Eastwood

**Christmas Eve**

Sunday, December 24

5 p.m. Children's Christmas Service

10:30 p.m. Lessons, Carols, and Christmas Cantata

11 p.m. Candlelight Festival Eucharist with Brass Choir

**Christmas Day**

Monday, December 25

10 a.m. Holy Eucharist with Carols

**First Congregational Church of Berkeley**  
FCCB  
**United Church of Christ**

on Dana between  
Channing & Durant  
510-848-3696  
www.fccb.org

**Christmas Eve**

9:30 p.m.  
Organ and Brass Prelude

10:00 p.m.  
Candlelight Carol Service

Rev. Patricia de Jong

preaching  
"A Silent Rising"

The Chancel Choir and  
Gabriel's Trumpet Trio

Open and Affirming.

We welcome you!



the people who  
sat in darkness  
have seen a  
great light

## Christmas Eve at Northbrae Community Church

5:00pm - Children's Service with a play

10:00pm - Candlelight Service of music, poetry

and sacred words to open the heart to the joy of Christmas

A non-denominational church that was once people from diverse religious heritages

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between Marin & Solano



## Skyline Community Church

Come and Celebrate the Meaning of the Season

## Christmas Eve

8:00 p.m.

## A Candlelight Service of Choir and Carols

For the whole Family with:

Gabriel's Trio of

Heraldic Trumpets,

Santa Lucia Children's Procession

and the

Skyline Community Church Choir

Royale Schertle, Music Director

Reverend Brad Bunin, Pastor

The Skyline Community Church

12340 Skyline Blvd. • Oakland Hills • 531-4212



## An invitation to "Reconnect"

January 4, 11, 18 & 25

Thursday evenings

7:30-9:30 p.m.

in the Parish Rectory

This program is for all Catholics who consider themselves to have "left the church" or else may have "drifted away" from its community of life. There is richness to our Catholic faith-philosophically, theologically, liturgically and culturally, and it is this legacy, which we are inviting you to share in once again. For information, call Raphael Martin or Fr. Leo 510-530-4343.

**Corpus Christi Parish**

322 James Drive, Piedmont

We'd be honored to have you, your family and your friends as part of our family on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

**Christmas Eve Candlelight Services at 7:00\* & 11:00 p.m.**

A service of hymns and choral presentations.

Zion's Senior Choir will be supplemented by members of the San Francisco Bach Choir and accompanied by brass, strings, harp, and organ - with Quemapas carolers and Santa Lucia.

\*Toddler care available.

**Christmas Day Festival Service at 10:00 a.m.**

A quiet celebration and reflection with traditional liturgy.

**Zion Lutheran Church**

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AN ADVERTISING FEATURE

# SENIORLiving

## Welcome to our neighborhood

They say, "the more things change, the more they stay the same." Well, times have definitely changed and true to the saying, Lake Park remains one of Oakland's finest neighborhoods - a commitment we made 30 years ago.

Unfortunately, in today's fast-paced world of computers and the Internet, it seems as if the importance of "neighborhood" has been forgotten.

Replaced with a number of competing social distractions, the traditional neighborhood no longer functions as a collection of friends and families, a support group, or a place to enjoy comfort and security.

Gone are the connections and ties

that once brought people living on the same block together. This change in the makeup of our cities is one of the many reasons seniors and their families are learning more about Lake Park.

From the comfort and convenience of this 13-story life rare retirement community in downtown Oakland, seniors are rediscovering the values that once made their neighborhoods great.

With many of the residents having called Oakland or the Bay Area "home" for years, Lake Park feels like the neighborhood they've known and loved.

That's really what Lake Park is all about - creating an environment

where people can come together and share the best parts of their lives.

This commitment to providing the ideal setting in which to experience and enjoy retirement has resulted in true freedom for Lake Park residents. Pursuing a lifestyle of activity and independence, they find more time to do exactly as they please when they please because all of life's mundane chores - like maintenance, housekeeping, laundry, and even cooking are completely taken care of.

With the extra time, residents participate in a number of scheduled activities, enjoy nearby shopping and dining trips, as well as numerous other Lake Park services and amenities which provide opportunities to meet new faces, interact with neighbors, or continue existing friendships - just like a neighborhood should.

With their needs anticipated, neighbors benefit from the ties that

## Gifts that cost nothing

By Daniel Aspell

Every holiday season, it's hard to figure out a gift-giving budget. Always, there are the questions of what to spend on the kids' gifts, how much on the in-laws, and do we send something to those distant cousins this year? Believe it or not, many of the most remembered and precious gifts don't cost a dime.

bring them together, confident that their best interests are looked after, free to enjoy all life offers.

What's more, as a life care community, Lake Park offers the assurance and security of a full continuum of long-term care should it ever be needed, for as long as it may be needed. In addition, the life care concept also provides significant estate protection, with entrance fees refundable up to 90% to residents or their estates. Part of every great neighborhood is a feeling of comfort and safety, and that's exactly what our neighborhood provides.

Lake Park truly incorporates the best of what made our neighborhoods great - opportunities, activities, support and security. Lake Park welcomes you to take a closer look.

For more information or to schedule a complimentary lunch and tour, call Barbara Conlon or Ron Darling at (510) 835-5511.

That's right, you don't have to open your wallet, present a credit card or even visit the redi-teller. It doesn't matter whether it's Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa or any other season; these are gifts of

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Ruth and Tracy in the St. Paul's Towers library (above); mother and daughter on Tracy's wedding day in 1965.

Ruth Joos, St. Paul's Towers resident since 1998

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Ruth Joos moved north from Santa Barbara to be near her daughter Tracy Johnston, a noted author who lives in the Oakland hills. At St. Paul's Towers, she's not only near Tracy, but she's also settled comfortably in a spacious private apartment with a spectacular view of Lake Merritt and San Francisco.

Ruth, too, likes to write and participates in St. Paul's Towers' poetry group and creative writing class. She enjoys a wide range of resident services, including weekly housekeeping, scheduled transportation and delicious meals served in a gracious dining room.

What's more, Ruth has the assurance of comprehensive lifetime medical care as part of her Life Care contract. To learn more about St. Paul's Towers, call us today at (510) 891-8542.



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## Gifts

Continued from page 12

given at any time in the spirit of the gift, help us during the holiday season. The gift of a friend who checks out.

The Gift of a friend who checks out. The gift of a friend who checks out. The gift of a friend who checks out.

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# SENIOR Living

## Be kind to your cold Treat it with natural herbs

On average, Americans catch a cold 2.7 times a year, and most of the bouts with sneezing, coughing and "that achy feeling" happen during the winter months.

Cold viruses are most likely to

strike when people are under stress or overworked. Not getting enough sleep can exhaust the body's defenses and make you more vulnerable to cold viruses.

There are some commonsense

ways to avoid being a cold statistic this year.

- Get enough sleep.
- Eat a healthy diet. A poor diet has been shown to lower the body's resistance to colds.
- Wash your hands frequently.
- Stay away from people who are sick.
- Exercise.
- Boost your defenses against a cold with vitamins and herbs.

More and more people are discovering that herbs like echinacea can help reduce the length and frequency of a cold. Echinacea, or purple coneflower, is an herb native to North America that has been used for hundreds of years.

When you begin to feel a cold coming on, studies indicate that echinacea can encourage your body's own natural response to fight

off the virus. If you do catch a cold, echinacea works to make you feel better faster.

Zinc lozenges can help when a scratchy throat heralds the beginning of a cold. Zinc reportedly helps soothe sore throats and may also shorten the length of a cold.

Some companies specialize in all-natural products to get people through the cold season. Echinacea comes in different flavors of chewable tablets with vitamin C added. Zinc cold relief lozenges also come in flavors. Because the products are chewable, they get into the system quickly.

For daytime and nighttime herbal help, there are liquid products which contain echinacea, willow bark, elderberry, zinc and vitamin C. They help soothe a sore throat and help to lessen cold symptoms during the day. For nighttime relief, there are products with echinacea, zinc, willow bark and vitamin C. The herbs valerian, hops and passion flower help you to get the rest you need.

## There's no place like home for the holidays

Have you had a recent medical problem? Have you recently been hospitalized? Are you or a family member needing extra help during the busy holiday season? Is assistance or transportation needed for shopping, errands, or appointments? Does a family member or caregiver need relief for shopping, errands, or appointments?

You, a family member, or a friend could be faced with

the challenge of coordinating care and/or services for yourself, an ailing family member, or friend. That's where *Angel Home Care* can help. The caregivers at *Angel Home Care* can provide personal attendant or companion care to the sick, elderly, or disabled.

*Angel Home Care* provides caregivers for those persons who want to remain at home. Their goal is to allow as much independence as possible, while providing safety and the care necessary to allow you or your loved one to stay in the familiar surroundings of home for the Holidays.

*Angel Home Care* offers creative, innovative and cost effective services to meet your home care needs; whether it is to assist in the case of sudden illness or to provide short or long term care for a person with dis-

abilities. Services include personal

care, meal preparation and shopping, light housekeeping, and transportation for appointments or errands. All staff are bonded and carefully screened, and supervised by the Registered Nurse owners.

*Angel Home Care* is owned and managed by Bobbie Richards and Cindy Duggan, Registered Nurses who are dedicated to delivering the highest quality of nurse supervised personal care to their clients; their goal is to assist clients to remain as independent as possible living in their home. For more information on personalized home care services contact *Angel Home Care* at (510) 482-2600 and talk to a Registered Nurse or Staffing Coordinator. A free nursing evaluation is provided at the start of any service.

directions. "Drug interactions, in particular, pose a number of hazards," says Eileen Murphy, R.N., national director of clinical education for Olsten. "Patients should never combine prescription and/or over-the-counter medicines without consulting their doctors."

Finally, a telephone number for the local poison control center should be easily accessible in case of emergencies. As the senior popu-

lation increases, so will the number of older adults living at home. Home health providers, such as Olsten, can provide assistance so safety precautions are followed. These skilled professionals can answer questions and make practical recommendations for improving the home environment.

For a free brochure on senior safety at home call 1-800 HOME NOW (1-800-466-3669), or visit [www.olstenhealth.com](http://www.olstenhealth.com).



Bobbie Richards and Cindy Duggan, Registered Nurses and owners of Angel Home Care

## Angel Home Care

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- Companion/Sitters
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- Geriatric Care Manager

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The U.S. Census Bureau predicts that the age 65-plus population will grow from 34 million today to more than 39 million by the year 2010. Seniors over 85 will see the largest increase.

Such longevity is good news for America's senior citizens-and also supports the rapid rise in home-care nursing.

"Home nursing allows older patients to live or recover comfortably and safely in the privacy of their own home environments," says Robert A. Fusco, president of Olsten Health Services, North America's leading home health care provider.

### Safety And Health

More than seven million people are injured each year as a result of accidents in the home, but most home accidents are preventable.

Olsten recommends that seniors follow a variety of practical safety tips. In general, older individuals should assess the safety of their home environments. Do area rugs have rubber backings? Are there hand rails along stairs and the walls

of the bath and shower? Are heavy objects in a central place to prevent unnecessary bending and lifting?

The bathroom, in particular, can be a hazardous room for seniors. Nonslip mats, shower doors made of plastic or tempered glass, and unbreakable bottles, cups and containers are recommended.

Seniors should also take care to immediately discard broken glass and needles in a puncture-resistant container with a sealed lid. Leaving such items in the bathroom wastebasket allows for injuries to occur.

The kitchen is often another perilous area. Keep all flammable items away from the stove and unused appliances unplugged. In addition, every kitchen should have a smoke alarm and fire extinguisher in working order.

### Medicine Mishaps

Patients should never take medication from bottles whose labels have fallen off, or if they are unsure of the contents or the medication date has expired.

Moreover, seniors should avoid using medications that have changed in appearance or have not been properly stored according to

## It's 10 p.m. ...

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At the Altheim, our residents find more ways to make every moment of their retirement more rewarding: from games to fitness programs, cultural opportunities to special events. And, all the thoughtful services we offer make it easy to enjoy these activities, as they choose, whenever they choose.

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A Senior Living Community

Call today for a visit or a brochure

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License #015600445



## The holidays are here!

May this special season be warm in spirit.

May it be blessed with memories.

Have a happy holiday season.

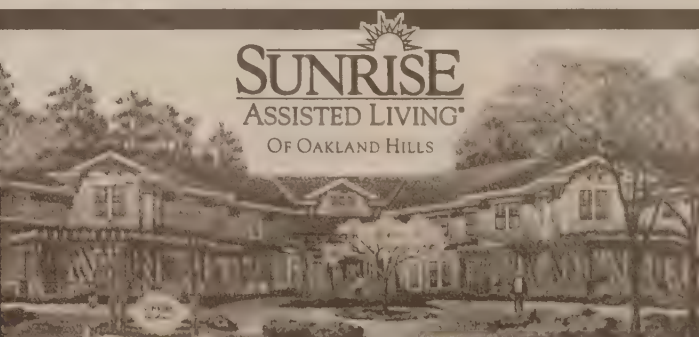
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HILLS NEWSPAPERS



Friday 7-8 Saturday 7-8:30







# Auto Plus

Advertising supplement to The Montclairian, The Piedmonter, The Berkeley Voice, The Journal, The Alameda Journal

December 22, 2000

Section D

**Get Off the Road** Grand Vitera XL-7: More power, more room [D2]

**Classic Classics** 1934 Studebaker Commander 8 Land Cruiser [D4]

**Auto Directory** Where to find the places to shop for your next vehicle [D6]

## Hyundai Santa Fe fits most any budget

### Keane on Wheels

By Tom Keane

The 2001 Hyundai Santa Fe looks like a dynamite sport utility vehicle capable of taking on any challenge. For the most part, its looks do not deceive.

Keep in mind that most SUVs are used to negotiate paved streets and parking lots in shopping malls. To this end, the Santa Fe is an ideal vehicle. It's on the rough off-road treks and steep hills that the Santa Fe falls a bit short. At least that was the case with the one I drove.

My initial reaction when I saw the Santa Fe was that of awe. This vehicle is both handsome and ferocious. After driving away, I was really inspired by its car-like ride — smooth, comfortable and quiet. Then I began observing other characteristics, such as NVH: noise, vibration and harshness. The Santa Fe received straight A's. I tried whipping this SUV around an empty parking lot and jamming on the brakes. More top-of-the-line marks.

It's not every day a vehicle of this caliber goes on the market for \$16,499. (That's the price of the five-speed, manual base model). The top-of-the-line Santa Fe with four-speed Shifttronic Automatic with four-wheel drive goes for \$21,999 plus options.

My tester was equipped with a four-

See KEANE, Page D4



THE TOP-OF-THE-LINE SANTA FE with four-speed Shifttronic Automatic with four-wheel drive goes for \$21,999 — plus options.

### Drive, She Said



By Denise McCluggage

## GM designs 'comfy cozy' car thermostat

I've been surprised lately by the actions of two different people I thought of as car-wise. Their intention was to get the heater cranking some warmth into a cold car as soon as possible. The cars were equipped with automatic thermostats. In both instances the drivers quickly punched the numbers up into the 90s.

"Do you really want to drive in a 90-degree soup?"

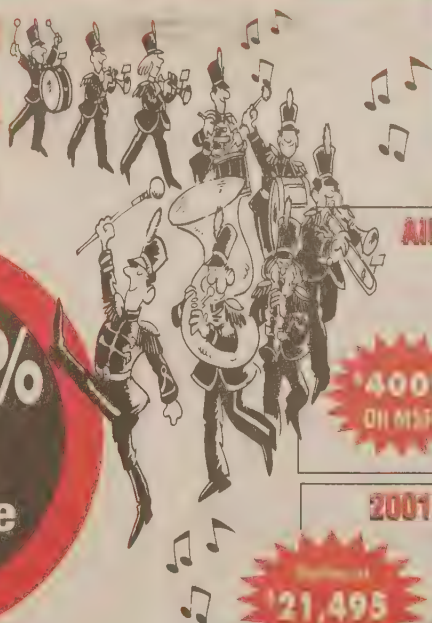
"No, but that makes it heat up faster."

Wrong

I would bet that they would be the ones while waiting for a sluggish elevator to heat on the already-lighted button. Truth be told, some things take the time they take, and what people may see as

See DRIVE, Page D4

Na Na Nana  
Na Na Nana  
Hey Hey...



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## Premium wiper blades designed to help clear the way

Windshield wiper blades are not meant to last forever. Most experts believe they should be changed at least twice a year or every 6,000 miles. But studies have shown that the average motorist changes wiper blades just once every two or three years. As a result, many drivers are using blades that are cracked or frayed and not able to properly clear rain or snow from the windshield.

With many wiper blades on the market, a few are marketed as best of category. Here is a brief look at four of the top "premium" blades.

■ Valeo and Old World Industries recently introduced SmartBlade, a premium wiper blade that features state-of-the-art rubber technology and an exclusive Wear Indicator. Just like the bristles that change color on your toothbrush when they have lost their effectiveness, the SmartBlade uses a similar concept. The Wear Indicator measures wear factors (such as UV rays, ozone, pollution) that deteriorate rubber, and changes from black to yellow, indicating diminished blade performance. The company says the wear indicator advises drivers under normal usage conditions when it is time for blade replacement.

The SmartBlade is manufactured using DuoTec+ rubber technology which the manufacturers say provides "original equipment performance in all weather conditions, combining a synthetic body for optimal flexibility and durability in all climates, and a natural rubber wiping edge for superior wiping quality reducing noise and chatter."

The suggested retail price for SmartBlade starts at \$7.99 for 13-inch blades. The product can be found at leading automotive retailers. For more information, contact Old World Industries at 800/323-5440 or visit [www.smartblade.com](http://www.smartblade.com) or [www.old-worldind.com](http://www.old-worldind.com).

■ TRICO, a leading manufacturer of wiper products, has teamed up with DuPont Teflon to create a scientifically engineered blade that works better and lasts longer. Part of what makes Teflon so useful for wiper blades is its low coefficient of friction, making it an extremely slippery substance. Its primary benefits are a smoother, cleaner wipe, and resistance to harsh elements and weathering.

According to James Croston, director of marketing for TRICO, "In addition to its smoother wipe and longer life, the Teflon Blade also features a thicker, more rugged superstructure, with a pre-attached univer-

### Aftermarket Reports

Gary McCoy

sad adaptor, designed for easy installation, fitting 95 percent of vehicles directly."

Trico says 14 blades are available in 11-inch to 28-inch lengths, with the 18-inch blade selling for a suggested retail price of \$9.99. It is available at most major auto parts retailers. For more information, visit [www.tricoproducts.com/teflon](http://www.tricoproducts.com/teflon).

■ Robert Bosch Corporation helped introduce the premium wiper blade in 1995 with the Micro Edge Excel. The company says it has improved the composition of Micro Edge Excel's two rubber compounds to withstand the most severe environmental conditions while providing enhanced wiping performance and longer service life. Bosch says the rubber of the flex element has been formulated to provide "superior flip-over flexibility, quieter operation and reduced windshield chatter."

Another improvement to the Micro Edge Excel is the replacement of two external metal tension springs with a single fully enclosed metal spring. The new spring is fully enclosed in rubber to help insulate the spring, reducing the potential for buildup of ice, snow and moisture that degrades wiper performance. In addition, the new single spring, which uses more steel than the two springs it replaces, applies more direct and even pressure to the wiping edge for the improved moisture removal.

Micro Edge Excel is available at all retail auto parts stores nationwide at a suggested retail price that starts at \$9.99 per blade. For more information, visit [www.boschusa.com](http://www.boschusa.com).

■ ANCO's high performance wiper blade is the AeroVantage. With its vented bridge and sleek aerodynamic design, the AeroVantage is engineered for today's sloping windshields and faster highway speeds. The company says it is "the blade that beats the wind."

The AeroVantage includes ANCO's patented "no wax" DuraKlear rubber formula that resists ozone, UV rays, air pollution and road grime. It is designed to eliminate wax buildup on your windshield. The AeroVantage features ANCO's KwikConnect adapter system that is designed for easy installation in seconds with its "snap in, snap out" design.

AeroVantage wiper blades are available at most leading auto parts stores. For more information, visit [www.federal-mogul.com](http://www.federal-mogul.com).



MOTOR MATTERS

**SMARTBLADE:** a premium wiper blade that features state-of-the-art rubber technology and an exclusive Wear Indicator.

## Grand Vitara XL-7: more power, more power

With boats, bikes and ATVs, Suzuki casts a distinctively playful and outdoorsy style among small SUVs. The 2001 Grand Vitara XL-7 stretches those distinctions.

The XL-7 stands for extra large. However, Grand Vitara XL-7 is extra large only in comparison to its small SUV competitors, such as Toyota RAV4 and Honda CR-V. In fact, Suzuki envisions the XL-7 as something of a monster killer—a sane alternative to the overly large, behemoth SUVs that are earning increasing scorn from the economy minded.

"You don't have to be a boat to drive one" is Suzuki's battle cry.

To that end, Suzuki stretched, heightened, and widened its flagship, Grand Vitara; boosted its engine power, and added a third-row seat.

Third-row seating in a small SUV? Yeah—but the XL-7's third-row seat should come with a playground sign: "No one over four feet allowed."

"The seat accommodates only small children or contortionists. However, it offers a tidy solution for families who buy full-size SUVs for the few occasions when they shuttle an extra kid or two. And when not in use, the third-row bench folds down to open up an excellent 37 cubic feet of rear cargo space.

As for the rest of the interior room—what was once a deficiency in Suzuki SUVs is now its advantage. Both front and second rows benefit from more leg-, hip- and headroom than that offered by the competition. Rear doors have been widened, too, and provide superior egress for second and third seat passengers.

XL-7 keeps Suzuki's traditional off-roader's body structure. Disdaining the car-based unibody designs of the competition, Grand Vitara XL-7 is constructed with a



### Get Off the Road

By Christopher Keane

rigid fully-boxed ladder frame. The chassis sports a 5-link rear suspension with coil springs and gas shocks, and a MacPherson independent strut front suspension.

Although this design can mean a truck-like feel over bumps and rocks, XL-7 travelled the roads with a soft comfortable ride. In addition, it provided excellent stiffness during serious off-road travel. And a whopping 13 inches of added wheelbase helped smooth out the ruts on dirt roads and provided a wonderfully stabilized highway ride.

Standard power-assisted rack-and-pinion steering kept the handling tight and controlled. Engine and road noise were well diminished.

Remaining true to the origins of SUVs,

SUZUKI GRAND VITARA XL-7 stands for extra large.

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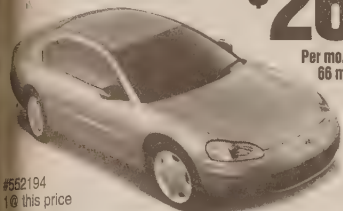
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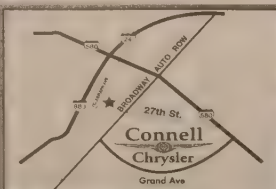
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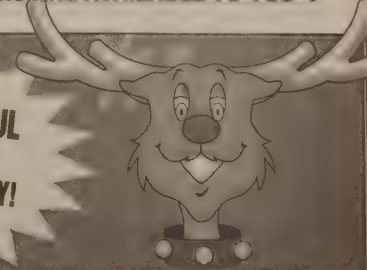
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# 1934 Studebaker restored after coast-to-coast trip

Adversity often spurs us on to excellence. Some of the most beautiful cars ever made were created during the depths of the Great Depression. Studebaker manufactured 59,864 automobiles in 1934.

The Studebaker was 60 years old when Max Rubin decided he wanted a 1950 bullet-nose version. A veteran antique automobile admirer, Rubin knew the best way to locate a specific car was to join the appropriate club, in this case the Studebaker Drivers' Club.

He passed the word that he was shopping and then began scouring each issue of the club newsletter for likely cars that might be for sale. The cover story on the first club magazine he perused was about a 1934 Studebaker.

He soon forgot about the bullet-nose Studebaker and began searching for a 1934 model.

He knew that locating such a car wasn't impossible, but he wasn't prepared to invest any more time in the quest. Another half year passed when an unexpected call came from Salinas. Word of Rubin's search for a 1934 Studebaker had stretched from coast to coast. What kind of Studebaker was it? he queried. He later saw pictures of a 1934 Commander 8 Land Cruiser.

A trip to California was planned so the car could be inspected personally. Rubin was somewhat disappointed when he first saw the car. "It had been painted a 1964 Pontiac Metallic brown," Rubin reports, "with black fenders."

"Despite the incorrect color, the beauty of the lines of the car shone through," Rubin said. Still, he had other cars with which to contend and decided to pass on the 1934 Commander. Besides, it was at the wrong end of the continent.

After returning home to Virginia, Rubin received a telephone call from the California owner reminding him of the sheer beauty of the car. For once, Rubin let practically reign supreme. He knew the car needed both a mechanical and cosmetic restoration, and it was about a dozen states away — and some of those

## Classic Classics

By Vern Parker

states were very big.

The two men couldn't agree on a price. Finally Rubin said he was done talking and didn't want to hear any more about the car — ever. That is when the owner said, "Sold." It was June of 1995. The Studebaker was transported cross country on a truck and was delivered to Rubin's home.

After he could no longer put up with the brown and black colors on the car, he took it to a nearby restoration shop. There the tired old engine was rebuilt. It came from the factory with aluminum pistons and an aluminum head. Rubin bought a rusted-out parts car that still had the much-coveted original carburetor. "It was a real problem finding parts," he recalls. Fortunately, the Studebaker must have spent its 60-plus years in California since there was no sign of any rust.

All four doors are hinged on the "B" pillar. Like most cars of that era, the top has a fabric insert, with all steel tops still two years away. In a departure from the "square" body designs prevalent in 1934, the lines of the Land Cruiser were a collection of harmonious curves, all complementing one another. Fender skirts were a unique feature in 1934, but the curvaceous skirts were standard on the Land Cruiser and appear to mimic the curves of the rear fender.

Studebaker offered the Land Cruisers in solid or two-tone combinations at no difference in cost. Rubin selected a subtle two-tone light-blue combination with navy blue pinstriping.

The 14-spoke, light-blue Budd steel wheels are highlighted with navy blue pinstriping in a sunburst pattern around the chrome hubcap with an "S" in the middle.

The car has no radio, although a walnut-grained dashboard panel in front of the driver's three-spoke steering wheel is there to accommodate such an accessory. A full



1934 STUDEBAKER Commander 8 Land Cruiser.

complement of instruments surround the 100-mph speedometer in the center of the dashboard.

The three-speed gearshift lever sprouts from the center of the front floorboard, while the hand-brake lever, also through the floor, is at the driver's left knee. Rubin's 1934 Land Cruiser is the last year Studebaker used Bendix mechanical brakes. "They work really well," he said, "unless they get cold or wet."

The fastback style doesn't allow much space in the trunk. Since this car doesn't have spare-tire side mounts in the front fenders, the spare tire is horizontally mounted in the trunk, consuming precious cargo space. The trunk lid is supported by two brackets.

Now that the Studebaker Commander 8 Land Cruiser is completely restored, Dr. Rubin said, "I want trim rings for the wheels."

That desire simply proves that when restoring an antique car, you're never done.

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## Drive

FROM PAGE D1

hurrying things along has no effect whatsoever.

Thermostats, whether in your house or car, work much the same. If the temperature you ask for is warmer than the current temperature, the heating system will provide heat until the chosen temperature is reached.

Given the laws of thermodynamics and heat exchange, the process will take as long as it has to.

Dialing in a higher number on the thermostat does not change the process, although it might give you a certain psychological boost: "I am all powerful and have demanded 89 degrees."

But you could be setting up a sequence of constant fiddling. If you forget to moderate the thermostat setting, you may soon be beyond warm into overheated.

So you turn down the thermostat or open a window. You can see the seesaw coming, can't you?

Fiddle fiddle. And that's exactly what a thermostat was designed to avoid. Set it and forget it.

In a car the warmth that keeps the cabin toasty comes from the engine, and engines take time to warm up.

Unless you really like the superchilling effect of moving air, leave the blower off or

on "low" until the engine has enough excess warmth to transfer some to your feet.

To glean some tips on how best to cope with a cold car, I checked with a trio of General Motors HVAC (heating, ventilation and air conditioning) engineers: Jim Rogers, Curt Vincent and Clark Bell.

"Watch the temperature gauge. When it starts to move, the radiator coolant is at about 100 degrees," one said. That's warmth enough to share.

"Most automatic systems will do that for you," said another, "automatically ramping up the blower speed to match the temperature climb."

Passenger comfort is the aim with troublesome drafts or hot and cold spots eliminated.

Many cars now feature dual zone heating: the passenger gets a temperature preference and so does the driver.

The new Seville has a tri-zone system with backseat passengers having their say.

Some new systems also have solar sensors to make allowance for heat gain on the sunny side of the car.

Another mistaken notion about hastening the warming of a car's interior is hitting the recirculation button.

That's the button that stops the introduction of cold outside air into the car.

It seems to make sense that heating just the air in the car would speed up warming but a complication is moisture.

Possible snow tracked into the car and

passengers adding moisture-laden breath can fog up the windows to opacity, a dangerous situation.

That's why automatic systems prevent recirculation when set on defogging or blended mode.

And what is blended mode?

That's when not all of the heater's output is directed at the windshield; some is metered out to warm the feet as well.

In hot weather the recirculation mode can be helpful in cooling a car faster by keeping out the hot air, but best leave that button alone in cold weather, particularly in moist climates, or you might be plagued with fogged up windows.

Don't be surprised to learn that your air conditioner might be put to use in heating mode.

The A/C condenser has a function year round as a dehumidifier, I am told.

So that's what you might hear in the background. In supercold weather it shuts off. J.D. Powers started using a new question in 1998 in its owner-satisfaction survey — one dealing with problems of windshields fogging up.

Happily, General Motors' cars perform especially well in that category, thanks in part to my expert trio.

So I don't want to catch any of you racking up a thermostat thinking high numbers mean quicker warmth, or recirculating the air and turning your windshields to mist.

Just cool it, and you'll be warm.

## Off

FROM PAGE D2

Although ground clearance has decreased to 7.5 inches, the XL-7 is well suited for drivers who like their roads unpaved and uncompromising.

Under the hood, Suzuki beefed up power with a new 2.7-liter V-6 engine. With 170 horses, Grand Vitara XL-7 had plenty of pep for passing on the highway. In addition, a gutsy 178

pound-feet of torque provided the necessary oomph for off-road climbing and spirited starts. Unlike the competition's newer engines, though, XL-7 gas mileage has fallen — decreasing to 17 city and 20 highway.

On the outside, XL-7 continues to improve on Grand Vitara's leap from the old square tin can design to clean, contemporary styling. Smoother curves, subtle side lines, a steeply sloped windshield and a boldly modern snout set XL-7 close to cutting edge design. Inside, Grand

Vitara XL-7 comes standard with all the luxuries and features expected of a well-equipped vehicle.

Pricing starts at \$19,799 for the base 2-wheel-drive model. Four-wheel-drive versions begin at \$20,999 and rise to \$24,999 for the fully-equipped touring model with automatic transmission.

The 2001 Suzuki Grand Vitara XL-7 — an economical, family SUV built for off-road success — stretches the boundaries of the small-size SUV market.

## Keane

FROM PAGE D1

speed Shiftronic automatic and front-wheel drive. At \$17,299, it is ideal for most driving requirements. I took it off road and bounced along a trail that really didn't require four-wheel traction and the Santa Fe proved to be okay.

The only shortcoming occurred while I was going up a steep highway. The 2.4-liter four cylinder engine produces just 150 horsepower. This engine didn't have the strength to keep going without dropping down into a lower gear. Then it would upshift, downshift, upshift until it became irritating. Other than that, it's a fine vehicle. That's why that I mentioned "for the most part."

For those who require a vehicle capable of a jungle tour, the LX

model has a 2.7-liter V-6 engine that produces 185 horsepower. I'm told that combination really gets the job done.

The Hyundai people told me the Santa Fe is built on the platform that is used for their midsize Sonata car. Santa Fe's interior is trucklike in that the seats are more upright. That seems to be a selling point for the entire SUV market; people like to have a more commanding view of the road.

The designers wanted to give strong character lines over the front and rear wheel wells, which is what attracted me the first time I laid eyes on this vehicle. The large headlamps are another eye-catcher.

The designers were also concerned about the overall size. They came up with something that has off-road ruggedness, yet maneuverability in crowded parking lots. Those qualities seem to meet the demand

of the average buyer on both counts.

The interior is reasonably spacious and comfortable. My tester came with a load of options that included anti-lock brakes. But I was especially impressed with the standard features that included air conditioning, power windows and AM/FM stereo with a CD player. Other standard amenities: alloy wheels, deep-tint privacy glass, under-floor storage tray in the cargo area, in-glass radio antenna, roof rack and side rail.

The seats are upholstered in a durable cloth that has an attractive appearance. For those willing to spend the extra buck, leather seats are available as an option, along with traction control and fog lamps.

The Santa Fe should fulfill the needs of most buyers who analyze their requirements: flat roads and shopping centers, or hills and off-road jungles.

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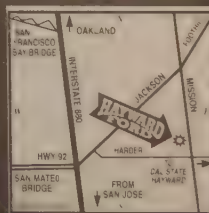
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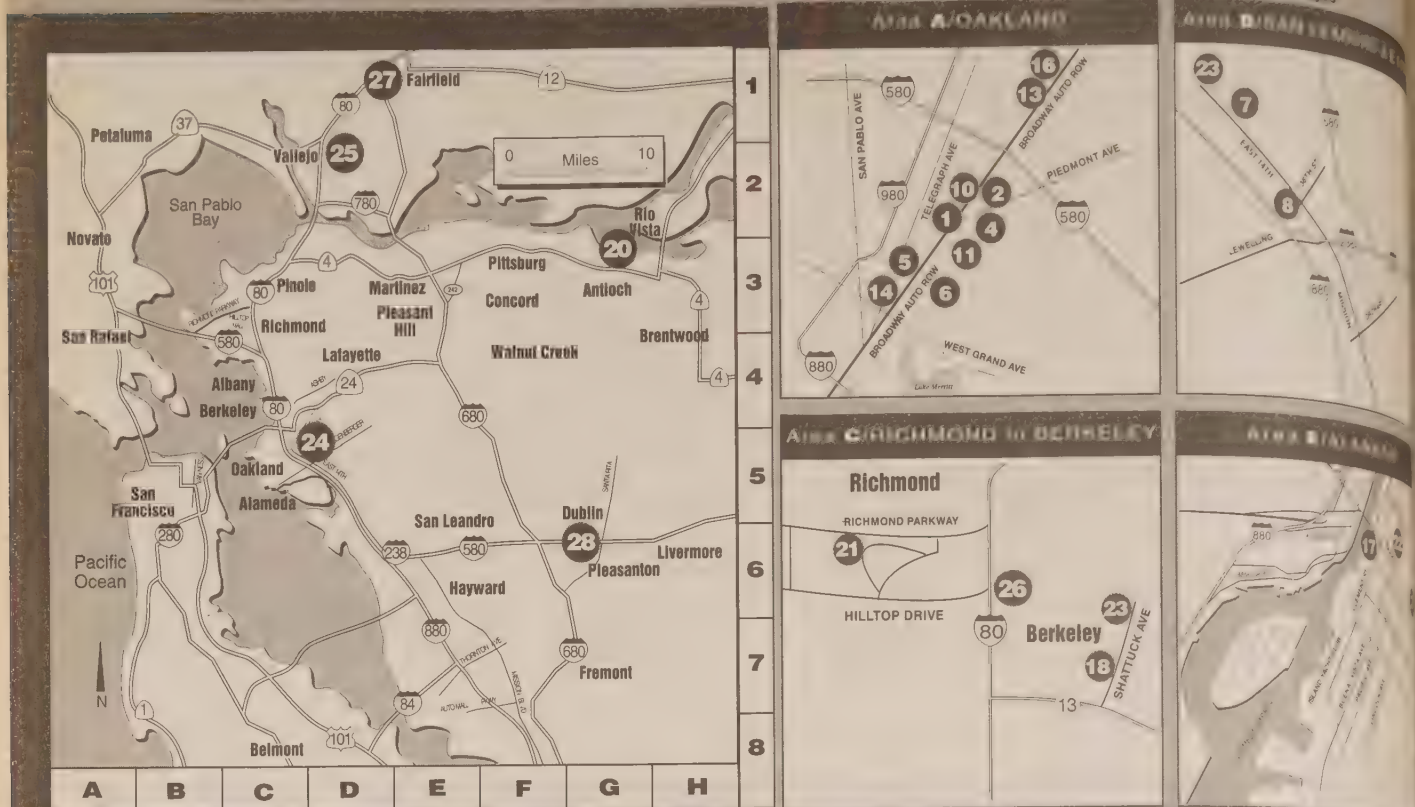
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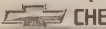
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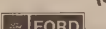
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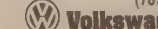
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27. **Barber Volvo of Fairfield Area A**  
2575 Magellan Rd., Fairfield  
(707) 399-3179  
[www.barberauto.com](http://www.barberauto.com)















# The Auto Section

Automobiles

INFINITI '99 Q45  
18K mi., list \$49,900, low  
book \$32,500, immac., sel  
est. 500-1005, 550-3040.

MAZDA '90 Miata, A/C, new  
brks./tires/clutch, excel.  
cond. \$1250 cash/fin. also

Call 925/998-8570 \$11.2K  
MERCEDES '89 190E, 2.6  
86K mi. \$9000. Great  
-best- (925) 998-8570

MITSUBISHI '01 Eclipse  
Spider convert., 500 mi.,  
brand new, \$27,000.  
205-227-6022

LYMOUTH '92 Colt Vista,  
spd., A/C, 131K, \$3500/  
Call 1-800-445-2222, Ext. 111

**\$9,495**  
**Saturn of Concord**  
**925-892-8400**

TOYOTA '98 Camry LE A/T,  
C, loaded, mnt. 40K mi.,  
3,950 obo 925-933-1861

YOTA '87 Camry, looks  
od, A/T, new tires, needs  
\$1,000.00

**More ads, more choice, more results**  
*inside your new, improved Hills Classifieds*



**Cruising for a car?    Hunting for a home?    Pursuing a position?    Searching for savings?**

Now you can select from thousands of ads instead of just a few. Your new, improved Hills Classifieds includes the expansive Contra Costa Newspapers marketplace – giving you more inventory, more listings, more jobs, more private party ads. Plus: you can find classifieds online at **[www.contracostatimes.com](http://www.contracostatimes.com)**

**To place an ad, call 339-8777. For Alameda call 748-1667.**

# HILLS Classifieds







# Job Network

The best and largest employment classified section in the greater East Bay Area

## 250 Help Wanted

### MANUFACTURING

#### Production Planner

Looking for a detail oriented person eager to work in a fast paced mfg. co. in Dublin. Coordinate plan & schedule product through production cycle. Prepare cost/ labor estimates for products, projects, tooling & services. BA + 5 yrs exp. in job planning & estimating in a manufacturing environment. Must be proficient in verbal/written English. ISO9001 SET offers a competitive salary & benefits pkg. Please fax resume to 925-560-8157

**MARKETING** Advertising Sales, Bay Area/Redwood has Outside Marketing position in the East Bay serving existing client base & developing new business. Ability to create new advertising ideas for broad based clients. Consultative selling skills, professional attitude, appearance & reliable. Training, \$40K Base + comm., medical & 401k plans. Resume & cover letter to: Parker, 600 Telegraph Ave., Oakland 94609. Fax 510-420-1519

**MARKETING DIRECTOR** Hilltop Mall has an opportunity for a proven marketing pro. Qual. candidates will have extensive exp. in Advertising, Research, Event Planning & Public/Media Relations. Retail or consumer related. The ability to work in a team atmosphere, manage budgets & develop strategic plans & motivate staff is essential. Excellent benefit pkg. incl. 401K. Mail resume to: Mr. White, Hilltop Mall Mgmt. 2200 Hilltop Mall Rd., Richmond, CA 94806. Fax to: 925-223-4453. Hilltop is an EOE. Applicants from women & minorities are encouraged.

### MARKETING

#### Marketing Mgr.

Classical marketing person to support an industry sales territory. 2-3 yrs exp. executing all marketing areas of research, marketing strategies & plan, media, direct marketing, collateral, press, promo., production, copy, detail mktg., project mgmt., w/informational skills. Fax resume 925-467-5495 or call 925-652-0117 ext. 100

### MARKETING

#### Marketing Rep

Work with top pharmacy chains. Ag. agency in Danville has 2 pos. Successful candidates will call health care indus. for new product promotion. Mon-Fri. \$10/hr. + comm. + benefit. Great potential for bonuses. Sal. DOE Contact: Brian or Frank 925-699-2622

### MECHANIC-Diesel

Hydraulic & welding a plus. Good pay, bnf. Fax resume 925-862-0822 or call 925-862-0631

### MECHANIC/FT

Some mch. exp. needed/will train. GM, DVM, rec'd. 401K. Sal. Bnf. 925-676-0261

### MECHANIC/Heavy equip.

Full bnf. Fax resume 925-455-0766

### MECHANIC & Helper

El Sobrante/Conc. openings. 17 hrs. starting @ \$11/hr. ASE a plus. Excel. bnf. Fax (707) 925-2974 or call (707) 573-2743

## 250 Help Wanted

### MEDICAL

**Medical: A/R** Immed. openings. Concord based. MFC company seeking Medical Billing, Medicare, Medicaid & Manage Care. Exp. a plus. FT salary & bnf. Lisa (925) 680-0839

**MEDICAL ASSISTANT** FT. Busy internal medicine office in San Pablo. Looking for a FT med. asst. good bnf. salary, computer exp. a plus. Mon-Fri. 9-5. Please fax resume 510-232-0855

**MEDICAL ASST.** bnf. cfc. FT/PT Bnf. San Ramon. Fax resume 888-489-7737

**MEDICAL ASST.** Energetic team player for busy multi-physician office. Cert. for injections, vitals, etc. back of procedure. FT/Competitive sal. Excel. bnf. Med. dental 401K. Fax resume 415-453-0756

**MEDICAL ASST.** Orange Ent. Dr. needs FT or PT employee now. Flex. hours, salary, benefits. FAX resume to: 925-254-6713

### Medical Billing

#### Asst./Receptionist

Berkeley Ophthalmologist looking for bright, hard working, reliable receptionist. Exp. \$13/hr. + bnf. Pls. fax resume to Jennifer at 510-849-7347

### MEDICAL/CLERICAL

PT pos. will train. Fax resume to: Leon Barton, 600 Central, 925-823-1095. Clayton Rd., Concord

**MEDICAL** Exp'd. Medical Receptionist for very busy OB/GYN practice. Competitive sal/bnf. Fax resume to Bonnie 925-611-2977

**MEDICAL** Exp. FT/med. records. Busy Albany office. Med. manager a plus. Good communication & computer skills. Fax resume to 925-325-9921

### MEDICAL

#### FRONT OFFICE

Must be dependable, computer friendly. Duties include: phone, patient intake-out, scheduling. Appointment setting. Background in medical ins. necessary. Mon-Fri. 2 Saturdays/Month. Please fax resume to 510-769-9417

### Medical Front Office

Busy orthopedic practice. FT/Excellent verbal/written skills req'd. 4 yrs. medical exp. req'd. Knowledge of medical ins. Fax cover letter to: W.C. health care office, 4000 S. Main St., San Jose, CA 95128. Fax resume to 510-444-9254

### MEDICAL FRONT OFFICE

FT worker needed in busy Dr.'s office. Must be good w/public, mature minded w/ computer & billing exp. Fax resume 510-444-9254

### MEDICAL

#### Medical Biller

FT for entry pos. Responsible for demographic coding and data entry of patient accounts. Exp. pref. excel. bnf. Send resume to: Billing, 4000 S. Main St., San Jose, CA 95128. Fax resume to 925-951-1391

### MEDICAL

#### Physical Therapy Clinic

Physical Therapy Clinic has openings for exp. PTs. Front Office/Receptionist. Fax resume (510) 222-8083

## 250 Help Wanted

### MEDICAL

#### Manager of Operations

Large med. specialty group has an immed. opening for a manager of operations. Duties include oversight of 3 departments: billing, collection, and patient care. Prof. & Pmt. Responsible for ensuring that billing & collection activities adhere to policies and procedures. Oversight of acting, codes, ASA & ICD-9 files & all staff user & report filed for billing & collection operations. Minimum of 5 yrs. supervisory management exp. in med. the billing field. Anesthesia billing exp. pref. Excel. comm. & billing skills req'd. Excel. bnf. Send resume to AA, 1600 Rivera Ave. #200 Walnut Creek, CA 94596. Fax resume 925-951-1389

### MEDICAL

#### Phlebotomist

American Red Cross We are seeking FT phlebotomists in our Pleasant Hill location with positive patient image strong commitment to excel. Must have a team player, phlebotomy cert. & exper. pref. bnf. Fax resume to: CDL req. Job # 73127. Res. to ARC - HR Dept., 6230 Claremont Ave. Oakland, CA 94618. Fax 510-601-7850. EOE

### MEDICAL RECEPTION

Exp. San Ramon, \$14-16 + bnf. Fax resume 925-820-3220

### MEDICAL RECEPTIONIST

FT front office, for busy San Ramon OB/GYN. Exp. pref. Fax resume 925-277-0501

### MEDICAL RECEPTION

Medical back office/entry level. FT 2 days/wk. Tues & Thurs. Will train person with excellent customer service skills. Danville. Call 550-873-0444, or fax resume to 650-873-2408

### MEDICAL RECORDS

A busy primary care group in Pinole has an immed. opening for a dependable, computer literate. Recs. Tech. We offer comp. salaries & good benefits. Fax resume to: 510-724-3546 attn: OPS Manager. Fax 510-724-3146 ext. 200

### MEDICAL

#### Surgery Scheduler/

Medical back office/entry level. FT 2 days/wk. Tues & Thurs. Will train person with excellent customer service skills. Danville. Call 550-873-0444, or fax resume to 650-873-2408

### MEDICAL

#### Medical Transcriptionist

Immed. Temp. Top \$ Payscale 925-808-8549 Fax 925-687-9767

### MEDICAL STAFFING

#### Immediate Temp

Top \$ flex hours. 687-5570 Fax 687-9767

### YOUR MOST CONVENIENT SHOPPING CENTER IS THE CLASSIFIEDS

## 250 Help Wanted

### MENTAL HEALTH

#### Clinical Specialist

Contra Costa Health Services \$19.45-\$22.85/hr Temporary relief position in the Mental Health unit of the County's Main Detention Center in Martinez. Variable hours, including weekends and evening hours. Required: PhD, LCSW, MFT.

### MENTAL HEALTH

#### Licensed Psychologist

Contract Assignment available immediately. Reg. Masters Degree in Psychology with specialization in clinical or counseling psychology. High motivated professional with knowledge of a detention work environment.

### MENTORING

#### FAMILIES FIRST

Open your Heart and your Home. Stable, loving families needed to mentor parents/women children in need. Training, support & \$120/mo. For info: For Central West Coast Call 925-602-1750. For East County Call 925-753-1004x103

### MENTORING

#### SHARED FAMILY CARE

Open your Heart and your Home. Stable, loving families needed to mentor parents/women children in need. Training, support & \$120/mo. For info: For Central West Coast Call 925-602-1750. For East County Call 925-753-1004x103

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## 250 Help Wanted

### MODELS

Fresh new faces print & catalogue. Policies O.K. (925) 943-7889

### MORTGAGE

#### Are You Open To Challenge?

Meritage Mortgage is a pioneer in the sub-prime lending market. As a subsidiary of BMOG, Meritage has the backing of a top 12 prime mortgage lender nationally. Consider joining the ranks of a financially sound industry leader with more than 15 locations across the country. Current opportunities in our Dublin Center include:

### Closer/Funder

You will review funding loan packages to ensure all required documentation and final conditions have been met and approved. Position requires heavy contact with escrow/companies and brokers. Requires strong attention to detail and two years of closing/funding experience.

### FBMG offers an extensive benefit package including:

401K and stock option purchase program

Qualified applicants should fax their resume and cover letter with salary requirements to: 925-550-7880

### MORTGAGE

#### COORDINATOR

Excellent opportunity in Pleasanton supporting the Nation's #1 Homebuilder. 2 yrs comm. mtg. exp. req'd. Base salary + bonus & great benefits. Fax-mail resume

### Pulte Mortgage

Excellent opportunity in Pleasanton supporting the Nation's #1 Homebuilder. 2 yrs comm. mtg. exp. req'd. Base salary + bonus & great benefits. Fax-mail resume

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### MORTGAGE

#### COORDINATOR











# Hunting for a home?



Now you can select from a pool of 1,000 new and resale homes instead of just 100! Your new Hills

Classifieds include the expansive Contra Costa Newspapers marketplace – giving you more listings, more choice, more results! Plus – you can find classifieds online at

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**HILLS**

# Classifieds

**More ads, more choice, more results**



# NEGHERBON AUTO CENTER VOTED BEST PLACE TO BUY A NEW



## 2000 LINCOLN NAVIGATOR

**\$40,500**

One at this Price  
Rear Air,  
Chrome Wheels,  
CD Changer, Alpine  
Stereo & Much More.



MSRP \$46,195  
Dealer Discount - \$2,205  
College Grad Rebate - \$400  
**SALE PRICE \$40,500**

VIN #J04442

## 2000 LINCOLN CONTINENTAL

**\$30,500**

CD Changer, Driver Select System,  
Alpine Stereo and much, much more



Selling Price \$42,345  
Dealer Discount - \$8,945  
Factory rebate - \$2,500  
College Grad rebate - \$400  
**NET PRICE AFTER REBATE \$30,500**

VIN #N20266



**Mercury**  
LIVE LIFE  
IN YOUR  
OWN LANE

## 2000 MERCURY MOUNTAINEER

**\$28,500**

One at this Price.



V8, AWD, Moon Roof,  
Chrome Wheels, CD  
Changer, Side Air Bags,  
and much more.

MSRP \$35,175  
Dealer Discount - \$1,500  
Rebate - \$4,775  
College Grad Rebate - \$400  
**SALE PRICE \$28,500**

VIN #131794

## 2000 MERCURY VILLAGER

**\$19,500**

One at this Price



Rear Air, Pwr. Glass, Pwr. Seat,  
Alloys, ABS, Much More

MSRP \$25,910  
Rebate - \$300  
Dealer Discount - \$1,010  
College Grad Rebate - \$400  
**NET PRICE AFTER REBATE \$19,500**

VIN #J24835

## 2000 MERCURY COUGAR

**\$16,500**

One at this Price



V6, Auto, Sport Pkg, CD, ABS,  
Side Air Bags & Much More

MSRP \$21,005  
Dealer discount - \$2,105  
Rebate - \$2,000  
College Grad rebate - \$400  
**NET PRICE AFTER REBATE \$16,500**

VIN #630349

## 2000 MERCURY GRAND MARQUIS

**\$21,900**

One at this Price



Handling package,  
Conventional Spare Tire, ABS w/ Traction  
Control, and much more

MSRP \$25,690  
Dealer discount - \$1,000  
Rebate - \$2,390  
College Grad rebate - \$400  
**NET PRICE AFTER REBATE \$21,900**

VIN #600127

# NEGHERBON



All vehicles subject to tax, lic. doc fees and prior sale. Limited to dealer stock. On approved credit. All advertised discounts exclude leases. \$400 College Grad Rebate must be a college graduate 120 days prior to or after graduation. All factory rebates are in lieu of any special APR from manufacturer. Ad expires 12/25/00

**510-893-7282 Or 510-808-8024**

# NEGHERBON MITSUBISHI

**ONLY 10 DAYS LEFT!**

**0 DOWN**  
plus  
**PAYMENTS**  
and  
**INTEREST**  
For One Full Year

## 2000 MITSUBISHI GALANT

**\$245**  
PLUS TAX  
PER MONTH  
1 at this payment

• Auto • A/C • CD  
• PW • Cruise  
• PL • V6 • Tilt  
& Much More



Bank of the West Lease 66 Months. No security Deposit required.  
12,000 miles per year, 15¢ per mile penalty there after. \$500 Rebate  
plus \$500 Customer Cash total of \$1000 Due at inception. #083496

\*0 Down + \$0 Payments + \$0 interest available on all 2000 & 2001 Mitsubishi, on approval of credit via MMCA. Interest rate 9.9% plus tax, lic. & doc fees. All vehicles subject to prior sale. After annual deferral % rate goes to 9.9%. Deferral for 30 mos. 9.9% interest starts 30 days prior to first payment. Ad expires 12/25/00

**510-893-7282**

**2001 FULLY LOADED MONTERO**

**SAVE \$3,000**  
OFF MSRP  
1 at this payment

• PW • PL • Rear A/C  
• CD • Sun Roof • Tilt  
• Cruise • Luggage Rack

**2000 MITSUBISHI SEDAN**

**\$249**  
PLUS TAX  
PER MONTH  
1 at this payment

PURCHASE, NOT A LEASE

**2000 MITSUBISHI SPORT**

**\$349**  
PLUS TAX  
PER MONTH  
1 at this payment

• Leather • PW • PL  
• Cruise • A/C • CD  
• Alloys • Luggage Rack  
• And More

Bank of the West 66 month lease, 12,000 miles per year, 15¢ per mile penalty there after. \$500 Rebate plus \$500 Customer Cash total of \$1000 Due at inception. #083496

# NEGHERBON DODGE

## 2001 DODGE NEON

**STARTING AT \$10,995**  
After Rebates  
One at this price

• Auto • A/C  
• Cloth Seats  
• AM/FM



#101151

## 2001 DODGE DURANGO

**STARTING AT \$22,995**  
After Rebates  
One at this price

• V8 Magnum  
• PW • PL • Tilt  
• Cruise • Alloys  
• A/C • Cass  
& more



**3rd ROW seat**

Selling Price \$24,395  
Rebate - \$1,000  
College Grad Rebate - \$400  
**NET PRICE AFTER REBATE \$22,995**

#504514

## 2000 DODGE DAKOTA

**STARTING AT \$10,999**  
After Rebates  
One at this price

• Cloth Seats • A/C  
• 4 Cyl & more



Selling Price \$13,699  
Rebate - \$2,000  
College Grad Rebate - \$400  
Commercial Rebate - \$300  
**NET PRICE AFTER REBATE \$10,999**

#630477

## 2001 DODGE RAM 1500

**SAVE \$7,500**  
OFF MSRP  
1 at this payment

• Leather  
• Trailer Tow  
• V8 • LTD Slip  
• Keyless Entry  
• CD • PW • PL  
• Tilt • Cruise  
• ABS • Sliding  
Rear Window



\$7,500 discount includes \$2,000 Factory Rebate + \$500 Cash Rebate. VIN# 216776

## 2001 DODGE GRAND CARAVAN SPORT

**STARTING AT \$21,777**  
After Rebates  
One at this price

• PW • PL • Tilt • Cruise  
• CD • Rear A/C • 4 Door  
• Sunscreen glass  
• Luggage Rack  
& more



Selling Price \$23,177  
Manufacturers Rebate \$1,000  
College Grad Rebate - \$400  
**NET PRICE AFTER REBATE \$21,777**

#166076

## 2001 DODGE INTREPID

**SAVE \$4,000 OFF MSRP**  
One at this discount

• PW • PL • Tilt  
• Cruise • Cass  
• A/C • Alloy  
& more



\$4,000 discount includes \$1,500 Factory Rebate. #543753

## 2000 DODGE DURANGO

**SAVE \$7,000 OFF MSRP**  
1 at this discount

• Leather • PW • PL  
• 3rd Row Seat • Tilt  
• Cruise • Rear A/C  
• Trailer Tow • ABS  
• Luggage Rack  
• Running Boards  
• LTD Slip  
& more



\$7,000 discount includes \$1,500 Factory Rebate + \$400 College Grad Rebate + \$300 Commercial Rebate. VIN# 261879

## 2001 DODGE RAM 2500

**STARTING AT \$28,999**  
After Rebates  
One at this price

• Auto • PW • PL  
• Tilt • Cruise • A/C  
• LTD Slip • Sliding CD  
• Power Driver Seat  
• Fog Lamps  
• Trailer Tow



Selling Price \$30,395  
Rebate - \$1,000  
Commercial Rebate - \$300  
**NET PRICE AFTER REBATE \$28,995**

VIN# 262600

Rebates are in lieu of any special MFG. Interest Rates. \$300 commercial rebates must have valid business license or tax ID#. Limited to dealer stock. Prices to exclude leases, subject to prior sale. All prices plus tax, lic. & doc fees. Ad expires 12/25/00.

**510-808-8088**

Rebates are in lieu of any special MFG. Interest Rates. Limited to Dealer Stock. Prices subject to prior sale. Commercial rebate. Must show proof of commercial lic. or business license. Ad expires 12/25/00.

**510-808-8088**